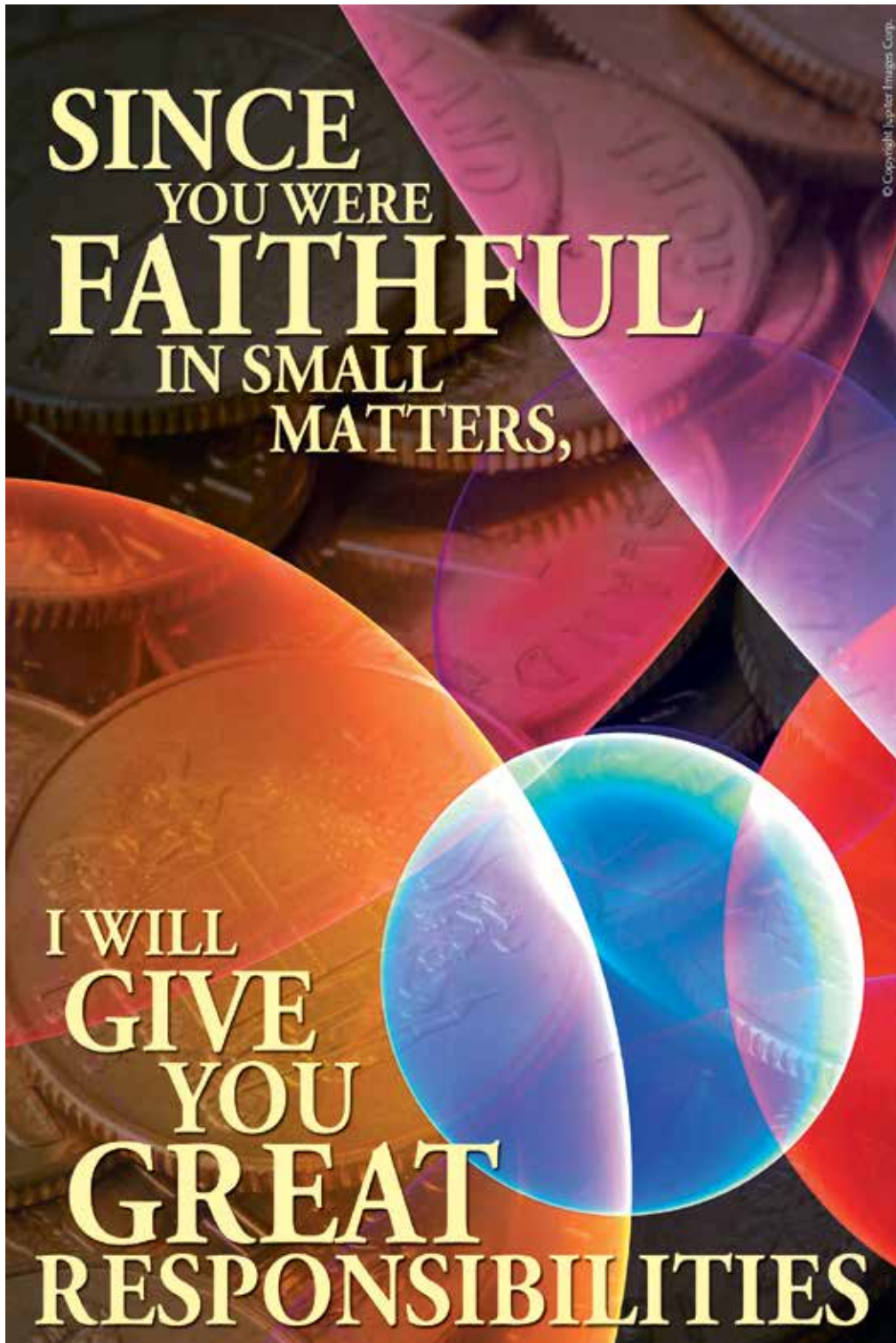


St. Thomas

NOVEMBER 15, 2020 — THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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. Ronald A. Hicks, Bishop

Parish Staff

Priests in Residence

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

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

Priests Assisting on Weekends

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

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

Permanent Deacons

Michael (Kathryn) Barrett — 630.355.8980, x145, meabarrett@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

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

Liturgy and Music

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

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

Faith Formation

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

Lorraine Katz, *Director of Religious Education*, x109, lkatz@stapostle.org

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

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

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

Beth Cecil, * *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, REAdmin@stapostle.org

Jenni Kennedy, * *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, REAdmin@stapostle.org

Outreach and Social Justice

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

Pastoral Care

Jan Olah, *Director of Pastoral Care*, x124

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

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Janet Simmons, *Finance/Business Officer*, x106, jsimmons@stapostle.org

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

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

Chris Ridge, * *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

Mary Wright, * *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

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

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

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

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Barbara Mambu, *Chair*

Alison Ohl

Mike McCormick

Brittany Tres

Commission Representatives

Carrie Wujek, *Faith & Spiritual Formation*

Linda Bailey, *Service*

Susan Wood O'Leary, *Finance*

Barbara Mambu, *Stewardship*

Deb Scheckel, *Parish Life*

Jeff Balsewicz, *Worship*

Ex-Officio

Fr. Philip Danaher, *Pastor*

Rev. Joseph Kappilumakkal, *Parochial Vicar*

Janet Simmons, *Recording Secretary*

*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 2:00 pm service (will move to 1:00 pm in 2021). 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

Letter from the Bishop



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Later this month, on November 21–22, our diocese will take up the national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). Your support for this collection brings change to people across the country and empowers those living in poverty to transform their communities into reflections of the Kingdom of God. In addition to making a national impact, we empower those living in poverty in our own

diocese. 25 percent of the funds we collect stay here.

Examples of how CCHD is changing and impacting lives in our own communities can be found at funded organizations such as Garden of Prayer in Kankakee. This nonprofit organization's mission is to improve the well-being of at-risk children, adults and families by providing education and mental health services that will place them on a pathway to success. Another example of CCHD's local impact is Shining Light NFP in West Chicago. This is an outreach open to all those in need of extra support because they are teetering on or already below the poverty line. Shining Light provides free services such as professional counseling, job training and a plethora of other resources. Numerous other organizations like Garden of Prayer and Shining Light NFP receive aid from our CCHD collection.

Your support for this collection makes a difference for people living in poverty across the United States. Please prayerfully consider how you can help CCHD this year. For more information about the collection and the people it supports, visit www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Thank you for generosity and for joining us as we break cycles of poverty by loving our brothers and sisters in Christ in this way.

Paz y bien,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 15, 2020

Blessed are you who fear the LORD.

— *Psalm 128:1a*

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

I am St. Thomas Program

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your Commitment Card. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a final letter will be mailed to you with a personalized Commitment Card. We invite all faithful parishioners to complete a card as our parish goal is 100 percent participation! You may return your card by:

- mailing it to the church using the pre-addressed envelope included with the letter.
- bringing it to Mass next Sunday.
- visiting our parish website at www.stapostle.org and complete an electronic Commitment Card.

All cards need to be returned to the parish by Sunday, November 29.

Electronic giving is the preferred, easy, safe and secure way to give to our parish. To schedule a recurring electronic gift directly from your bank account or credit card, please visit our website and follow the instructions. We appreciate all parishioners using this means to support St. Thomas.



Worship Commission — Liturgy and Music

Reflection on the Readings

The closing of the church year is an opportunity for deep reflection. We hear advice again today about paying attention and planning for what will inevitably come in each of our lives. Our readings speak of wisdom, courage and using the strengths and gifts given. As Thanksgiving and the onslaught of the coming holiday season collide, this may be a good time to take a breath, step back and think about what really matters.

Readings for Today

First Reading — The woman who fears the LORD is to be praised (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31).

Psalm — Blessed are those who fear the Lord (Psalm 128).

Second Reading — Brothers and sisters, you are children of the light (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6).

Gospel — Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities (Matthew 25:14-30 [14-15, 19-21]).

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: Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 19:11-28, or (for the memorial of the Dedication) Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Ps 98:1-6; Mt 14:22-33

Thursday: Rv 5:1-10; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Lk 19:41-44

Friday: Rv 10:8-11; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: Rv 11:4-12; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

Prayer

How wonderful a King, Lord God,
you have given us in Jesus your Son:
neither a monarch throned in splendor
nor a warrior bent on revenge,
but a shepherd who seeks and rescues the flock,
bringing them back, binding them up,
strengthening them and feeding them with justice.

Prepare us for the Day of Christ's coming in glory,
by shaping our lives according to his teaching
that what we have done
for the least of his brothers and sisters
we have done for him,
the Christ who was,
who is, and who is to come,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

Amen.

Presider Schedule November 21–22

Saturday, November 21

4:30 pm – Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal with Deacon Jim Breen

Sunday, November 22

9:30 am – Fr. Philip Danaher with Deacon Larry Kearney

Presider schedule is subject to change.

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

Monday, November 16, 2020

8:30 am †Rick Kamm, by Schmitts and Cuffs

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

8:30 am Special Intention for John Fannon's birthday and healing, by Dave and Lois Caldwell

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

8:30 am †Beatrix and Anthony Ryder, by Mike and Nonie Ryder

Thursday, November 19, 2020

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

Friday, November 20, 2020

8:30 am †Ann Jendryk, by Patricia Riggs

Saturday, November 21, 2020

8:30 am Special Intention for The Bax Family, by Audrey Easton

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Joanna Vesper, by Mark Vesper

†Dorothy A. Pavlovic, by Linda Mitchell

†Coletta O'Brien, by Family

Sunday, November 22, 2020

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Sunday

9:30 am †Roselyn Carbonero, by Pauline and Sheila

†Nancy Ferguson, by Jim Ferguson

†Bill Mann, by Rick and Mary Ellen O'Rourke

11:15 am For the People of St. Thomas

Thanksgiving Day Mass

St. Thomas' Thanksgiving Day Mass will be Thursday, November 26 at 9:00 am in the Church. Fr. Philip Danaher will be the Presider. All are invited to bring bread and wine that you will use over the Thanksgiving holiday to be blessed at this Mass. You will keep these items in the pew with you, and after the liturgy, you will take home the items that you brought.

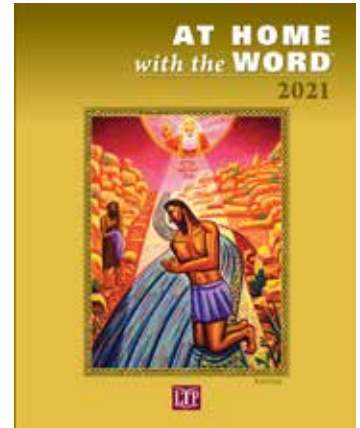


At Home with the Word

The *At Home with the Word* book is a great tool for breaking open the Sunday Scriptures at home — helping you to reflect further on God's Word, and preparing to celebrate the Sunday Liturgy. Commentaries about the readings assist in comprehension and a deeper dive into the Sacred Scripture.

Books are for sale at the Front Desk Monday–Friday, 9:00 am–3:00 pm or Saturday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm

Regular Print \$9.00
Large Print \$13.00
Check or exact cash ONLY.



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!

Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

As people of faith, how are we called to live in our time? We face many of the same **challenges** today that our earliest Christian ancestors faced. St. Paul encouraged Timothy to “bear your share of **hardship** for the gospel with the strength that comes from God.” (2 Timothy 1:8) Are we willing to courageously share the Good News of the risen Christ with our fallen and skeptical world? As Church, we are **challenged** to put God first and to keep faith in a world of darkness. We are **challenged** to be prayer warriors in the midst of an unbelieving world. We are **challenged** to live first as spiritual beings in a world that primarily promotes all manner of physical pleasure.

We are **challenged** to live out of a dependence on God in a world that rewards and strives for independence and self-sufficiency. We are **challenged** to promote virtue rather than applaud and accept vice. We are **challenged** to maintain hope in the face of so much want and destruction and so many unknowns, including the future of COVID-19. We are **challenged** to forgive what seems unforgivable. We are **challenged** to believe God is present and active in the world in spite of what things look like. And we are **challenged** to exhibit joy in the midst of so many trials and crosses and to encourage others to do the same.

Reserve the Date for Advent by Candlelight on Zoom — Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

This is a ladies only event. Details about the event coming soon.

St. Thomas Racial Justice Focus The Time is Right

This weekend, Fr. Danaher announced a parish-wide focus on racial justice.

How did it happen?

In August, at a Zoom meeting of the Solidarity Coalition Ministry, a parishioner planted a seed. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if St. Thomas could have a parish-wide focus on racial justice?" The seed blossomed. The Outreach and Social Justice Office and Faith Formation Office consulted together, developed a proposal and spoke with Fr. Danaher. He was immediately supportive and asked the entire St. Thomas staff for shared wisdom. The Parish Pastoral Council gave its blessing. Discussions were held with non-white parishioners who shared their stories, and for some, their experiences of racial injustice.

Why now?

Recent events and actions in our country, with the George Floyd murder as a major catalyst, have brought this issue to the surface for everyone, not just those most affected. There is a momentum for change. This is an ideal opportunity to educate ourselves and learn from each other . . . and to support actions that create change of heart and systemic change.

What happens next?

Every worthwhile initiative has a beginning and often getting started is the most difficult piece. We have started! There are so many aspects of racial justice that need to be addressed: basic civil rights, economic justice, affordable housing, prison reform and so many more. Over time, there will be many opportunities providing avenues for discussion and conversation . . . opportunities to learn, to question and to become involved.

Two initiatives are already underway

- St. Thomas Reads *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson.
- White Fragility Bulletin Series based on the book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin DiAngelo



What is being asked of each parishioner?

Be open of heart and open of mind. Become involved. Express your views in a civil manner. If we can't discuss difficult topics in our own parish, where can we talk about them? Conversations may be difficult, they may be hard, but they are a critical component to understanding why the topic of racial justice makes people uncomfortable and how we can work to counter the biases we all have, no matter what our race.

The opportunity is there

The issue of racial justice or lack thereof is a part of our country's history. There have been key eras when the issue has risen to the surface and become an integral part of the country's conscience . . . and major change happened (e.g., abolishment of slavery in the 1860s, civil rights movement in the 1960s). The current racial justice movement can be another key era for major change.

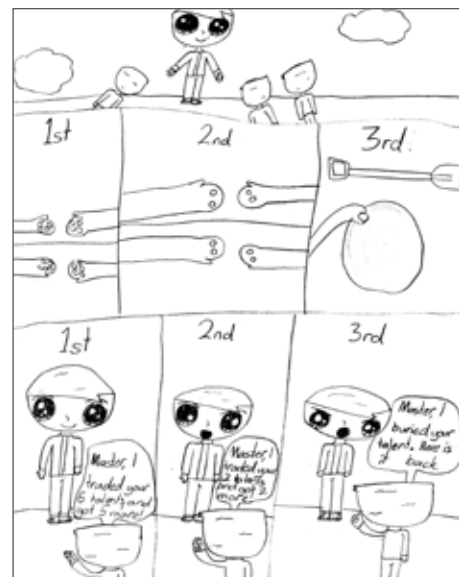
Much work still needs to be done to achieve the words of the prophet Amos: "Then let justice surge like waters and goodness like an unfailing stream."

Fourth Graders Spruce up the Bulletin with their Artwork

This week, fourth graders in RE took their turn to lend their artistic talents to the bulletin. Their efforts are below. You can see them in color on the St. Thomas website at www.stapostle.org.



~ Teagan



~ Addie

Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



St. Thomas the Apostle

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome to our New Administrative Assistants

The Faith Formation team is pleased to welcome two new members. Beth Cecil and Jenni Kennedy are the new administrative assistants in the faith formation office. You can reach them by email at REAdmin@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x118. When you are stopping in at St. Thomas, please welcome them.

Reconciliation Books

Reconciliation books are available for pickup by parents who have a child who will receive their First Reconciliation in the spring. Parents who attended the Reconciliation enrichment session already received these books. The home books are to be used to help prepare your child for their First Reconciliation. If your child is in fifth grade and you want another book to prepare for First Reconciliation, please contact the Faith Formation office.

Reconciliation Parent Enrichment Session

Is your child in fourth grade Religious Education classes or home school option? Then, you are invited to a Parent Enrichment Session for First Reconciliation. The meeting is November 14 at 11:00 am or the make-up session November 16 at 7:15 pm. This is for parents only. You need to only attend one meeting. Please contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109 if you didn't receive an information packet in the mail.

Fifth Grade Thank You

Thank you to all who helped make the fifth grade Mass happen. Thank you to our readers Amber Lopez, Leah Wojciechowski and Samantha Basi. I also want to thank Sharon Sugas, fifth grade coordinator; Jen Berg and Gina Howley, catechists; and Nidhi Thomas and Giada Colvin, aides, for preparing the students for this liturgy and their religious education year. Thank you to all who donated tuna for the Care Pantry, treasure and prayers at the Mass.

Fifth Grade Aide Needed

Looking for ways to support the growing faith of our children and have fun? An aide is needed immediately for a fifth grade class on Saturday at All Saints Catholic Academy 8:30–9:45 am. Class size is small — limited to 10 children. Please contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109.

Religious Education Tuition Angel

Would you like to be a tuition angel for a family attending Religious Education (RE) classes? For some of our St. Thomas families, it is a struggle to pay their RE tuition. If you can help, the fees are: \$120 for one child, \$200 for two children or \$260 for three children. Checks are made payable to St. Thomas the Apostle. Please write tuition gift on the memo line of the check. Please send it to the Faith Formation/Religious Education Office, attention Lorraine Katz. Thank you for your generosity of being a tuition angel. It is greatly appreciated.

Question of the week ...

How can you use your talents to spread the word about Jesus?



Harvest Sunday — by the Numbers

Harvest Sunday is possible because so many volunteers are willing to pitch in and help as evidenced by the following numbers:

- 48 neighborhood routes
- 11,000 Harvest Sunday flyers
- 341 parishioners volunteered their time to help with distributing flyers, collecting food from neighborhoods and from Casey's, and sorting, packing and boxing the food
- Over 3,636 bags of food collected and boxed into 936 boxes
- 3 food pantries received the food collected
- A million 'thanks' to all that had a part in making this happen!!!
You are truly the hands and feet of Christ!



However, Harvest Sunday is more than how many bags of food we receive or how many boxes we pack. There are real people ... people in our neighborhoods, people we see at church, people whose children go to school with our children who receive food. And to those people, you made a world of difference! Thank you so much.

Faces of St. Thomas — Christmas Edition

For many, the Christmas carol, "I'll be Home for Christmas" takes on a different meaning this year. Many will also not be physically present at our Advent and Christmas liturgies. Your presence in our church building is missed. Until the doors of St. Thomas can be thrown open to safely welcome everyone back, we would love to see your face in our Christmas edition 'Faces of St. Thomas' video. All you have to do is to send us a picture ... perhaps a 'selfie' taken in front of your Christmas tree or your nativity set. Pictures do not have to be professionally taken.

As a way of sharing a part of your Christmas with the larger St. Thomas community, send pictures to cbraun@stapostle.org by December 9. Although we may not be able to gather in person, we are still St. Thomas!



Teens with Character

Middle school students ... Teens with Character will meet on Sunday, November 15, 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!

A Different Kind of Christmas Pageant

St. Thomas elementary and middle school students, your help is needed to tell the story of Christmas in a virtual Christmas pageant. Each character or song in the pageant will be recorded separately and then will be edited together to tell the story of Christmas at the St. Thomas Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies. If you are interested in participating as an angel, shepherd, Mary, Joseph, Caesar Augustus, or a narrator, or you have some video editing expertise to offer, please contact Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org.

Important Dates for Middle School RE

November 14, 21

Saturday middle school RE classes meet

November 16, 30

Monday middle school RE classes meet

There are no RE sessions on November 23 and 28.

Service Commission — Pastoral Care

From the Behavioral Health Ministry November is National Family Caregiver Support Month



Mental Health

- There are over 60 million Americans who are unpaid caregivers to family/friends/neighbors struggling with a mental illness.
- One in 5 caregivers help someone with a mental illness.
- 45 percent of caregivers for adults with mental illness are parents, 14 percent are adult children and 11 percent are spouses.

The need for caregivers is expected to continue to grow as the US older adult population increases. Caregiving can often have a significant impact on the life of the caregiver in more ways than one. It can make maintaining your physical and mental health more difficult and may put a strain on work and social life.

Caregivers of people with mental illness are 15 percent more likely to feel emotional stress, 11 percent more likely to report fair or poor health and 9 percent more likely to feel financial strain than caregivers of people with a physical illness. It's important for caregivers to take care of their own mental health. Visit mhascreening.org to take a free, anonymous and confidential screen.

Supporting caregivers with information and resources can help them maintain their mental health and serve loved ones with mental illness better.

The Caring for you, Caring for others

Caring for someone you love can be a fulfilling experience that brings your family closer together. However, it isn't healthy to ignore the feelings of loss, stress and physical strain that accompany this kind of family caregiving. We've created this informational resource guide to help you stay emotionally and physically healthy while you care for your senior loved one. It's a great joy to care for others. This guide can help you care for yourself and become attuned to your own needs and feelings. For more information and a copy of the guide, please go to comfortkeepers.com. You can also contact the Pastoral Care Office at 630.355.8980, x124.

Blood Drive

Give thanks for all the family and friends in your life by giving the gift of life in their name. What a great way to celebrate Thanksgiving! This is the last week to sign up to be a blood donor

Saturday, November 21, 2020
9:00 am–2:00 pm
Albert Rubin Riverwalk Community Center, 305 W. Jackson Avenue, Naperville

To reserve a spot go to the link below:

https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5588373

Every Blood Donor is a Hero!

If you have any questions, please contact Diane McQueen at dmcqueen@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x101.



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

**From the Office of the Parish Nurse:
Parkinson's Disease: The Basics Part II**

How is it treated?

While there is no cure, the motor problems can be controlled with medications that restore function. A common medication is a combination of levodopa, which nerve cells in the brain use to make dopamine, and carbidopa, which delays conversion of levodopa into dopamine until it reaches the brain. Many other dopamine-enhancing medications are also available for treating PD. Over time, levodopa and related drugs continue to relieve symptoms. However, the majority of patients develop motor fluctuations (periods where the effects of the drug wear off) as well as involuntary movements (dyskinesias). Some patients benefit from deep brain stimulation, where electrodes are implanted deep in the brain and attached by a wire to a stimulator device implanted under the skin. The device sends electrical signals to the electrodes, which reduces fluctuations and dyskinesias.

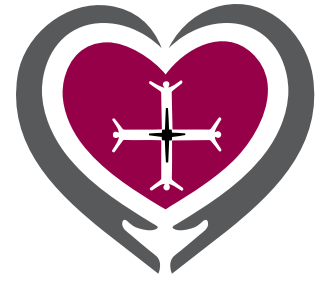
What research is being done?

Current research funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (ninds.nih.gov) is using animal models to study how the disease progresses and to develop new drug therapies that can delay, prevent or reverse the disease. Scientists looking for a cause continue to study genetic and environment factors that may trigger the disorder.

For more resources and support contact:

American Parkinson Disease Association, apdaparkinson.org or 800.223.2732
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research: michaeljfox.org or 800.708.7644
The Parkinson's Foundation: parkinsonsfoundation.org or 800.4PD.INFO (800.473.4636)

Source: National Library of Medicine, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; Brain & Life



PASTORAL CARE
St. Thomas the Apostle

Caregiver Support Group

"Listen," a caregiver support group meets at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church. Please email wlisten2017@gmail.com or call Joe at 630.569.1635 with any questions.

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



Stay Connected to St. Thomas

www.stapostle.org

Follow St. Thomas on Facebook

Download the St. Thomas App for your phone

Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

Harvest Sunday

St. Thomas Miracle

Harvest Sunday was an unprecedented success this year under challenging circumstances. Normally it is organized chaos with 80 or more volunteers in the gym sorting and packing food at the same time and finishing in one day. But this year was different, as we could have no more than 20 volunteers in the gym for two-hour shifts doing the sorting and packing the food into boxes. Volunteers wore masks at all times. The volunteers were able to social distance at the tables where the food was unpacked from the bags donated. They did a great job, but when the last shift ended, there were still hundreds of bags of food on the sorting tables and blanketing the floor waiting to be sorted and packed. It took two more days (two 2-hour shifts per day) to get all the food sorted and packed. The following Saturday, 15 volunteers helped pack the boxes into the trucks from St. Nicholas, our twinning parish in Aurora, and the Sisters of Notre Dame from the south side of Chicago.

This year we didn't have as many fixed neighborhood routes and parishioners were encouraged to build their own routes. Parishioners that didn't receive a flyer on their door were encouraged to drive-thru and drop off their donation at St. Thomas on Harvest Sunday weekend. Casey's Foods again allowed us to have volunteers collecting food from their customers on Harvest Sunday. We also had an online option for food donations through Amazon.com. The week before Harvest Sunday, we were receiving Amazon deliveries every day.

By the numbers

- 38 fixed neighborhood routes and 15 parishioners built their own route.
- 3,645 bags of food were collected! (As compared to 2,469 last year — a 48 percent improvement!)
- 960 boxes of food were packed! (384 boxes went to St. Nicholas and 384 to the Sisters of Notre Dame. The remaining 192 boxes stayed at St. Thomas.)
- 431 volunteers worked Harvest Sunday — taping boxes, delivering flyers, picking up food in neighborhoods and at Casey's, sorting and packing the food, and loading the trucks.

We are very grateful to all the parishioner volunteers for their hard work and good spirit. As always, very special thanks to Peggy Goralski, Director of Middle School Faith Formation, for once again organizing the volunteer sign-up effort and arranging for the Casey's storefront donations. Thanks to the Middle School Youth who taped 605 boxes in preparation for packing and staffed a 2-hour sorting and packing shift. Care Pantry volunteers, led by Michelle Hunt and Chris Sehgal, again put in some long days. And thank you, St. Thomas for the remarkable response . . . indeed a St. Thomas miracle!

Mike, Anne, Sally, Outreach & Social Justice Office



Truck packing youth volunteers.



Car food delivery.



Youngest cereal sorter brought his wagon.



Unique approach to sorting tuna.

Thanksgiving Turkey Drive November 21–22 Weekend

Yes, there will be a Thanksgiving Turkey Drive this year. We normally collect turkeys at five masses. This year it will be a challenge as there are only two masses with limited attendance. We normally have a goal of 800 or 900 turkeys, and we distribute the bulk of them to the Marie Wilkinson Pantry and other pantries in Aurora. This year those pantries are purchasing Thanksgiving boxes from Northern Illinois Food Bank.



Our goal this year is 225 turkeys for our Care Pantry families, St. Nicholas Pantry (our twinning parish in Aurora) and St. Patrick's Residence next door to the church. Any additional turkeys received will be donated to Fr. Dof's parish (St. Patrick-in Joliet).

We will have drive-thru turkey donations on the Weekend of November 21-22. Saturday from 4:00–6:00 pm and Sunday from 8:30 am–12:00 pm. Sign-up online to donate a turkey or multiple turkeys. Go to www.stapostle.org and enter turkey in the search box. If you need help signing up, please contact Anne in the OSJ Office at aschultz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x113.

If you are able, please drive a turkey to St. Thomas! As we are blessed, so we are called to bless others.

An Invitation

St. Thomas Pro-Life Meeting, November 18

Our St. Thomas Pro-Life Committee invites you to join us at our next Pro-Life Meeting at 7:00 pm Wednesday, November 18. It will be a Zoom meeting to discuss how we can bring to the parish a greater awareness of the sanctity of all life. We are already planning a few exciting activities for the coming year and would welcome new members to join us. To participate, please email Mike Ryder at mryder@stapostle.org. He will then send you an email the day of the meeting, with a link which will allow you to join the meeting at 7:00 pm. If you cannot attend this meeting, but would like to attend future meetings in January and April, please let us know that as well.

Eileen McGleam (Pro-Life Facilitator)

Care Pantry Christmas Party Gift Cards

Due to the pandemic, there will not be a Care Pantry Christmas Party this year. Christmas will still happen and there is a way to assist Care Pantry families to buy gifts for their children. We will collect gift cards and will distribute the gift cards at the drive-thru food distribution on Tuesday, December 15.

Please consider donating gift cards to Meijer, Target and Walmart in denominations of \$10, \$20, and \$25. This will give us the most flexibility when we divide the cards among the Care Pantry families. Gift cards are due no later than Sunday, December 13. Drop the cards off at church or send them to:

St. Thomas the Apostle
ATTN: Anne
1500 Brookdale Road
Naperville, IL 60563

Or, consider making a cash donation to purchase gift cards. Make checks out to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Christmas Gifts" in the memo.

May you and your loved ones experience moments of Light and Hope during the Advent Season.



Waterleaf Miracle of the Month "We are going to make it work."

"Ally" and "Ron" were very surprised by the pregnancy and completely disagreed about a plan for moving forward. However, after her latest ultrasound, Ally definitively said "We are going to make it work, because I am not going to have an abortion!"

With a family of four and a pending move to a new home, the pregnancy was putting a strain on Ally and Ron's marriage. Ally felt she would either lose her husband or her baby and did not know how she could live with either decision.

During one of her ultrasounds she laughed when she saw the baby stretch out. She could feel the baby balled up on her left side just as it appeared in the ultrasound.

She and Ron report many ups and downs since her first visit to Waterleaf, including two separate abortion appointments which were subsequently cancelled. Ally feels that Ron is coming around and she is determined to make it work. Waterleaf's Resource Specialists are ready to help with her needs including counseling for all the stressors she is experiencing as well as baby preparation. Ally relayed that she is so grateful for our continued support and prayers.

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

Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, November 16

7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE, Ministry Center
 7:15–8:30 pm Reconciliation Parent Make-up Mtg., Church

Tuesday, November 17

4:30–5:45 pm RE at St. Thomas, Ministry Center
 7:00–9:00 pm Insight, Zoom Meeting
 7:00–9:00 pm PPC, Zoom meeting

Wednesday, November 18

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Zoom Meeting

Thursday, November 19

9:15–11:15 am Thursday Bible Study, Senior Center
 6:30–8:30 pm Youth Ministry, Youth Center and Gym
 7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Zoom Meeting

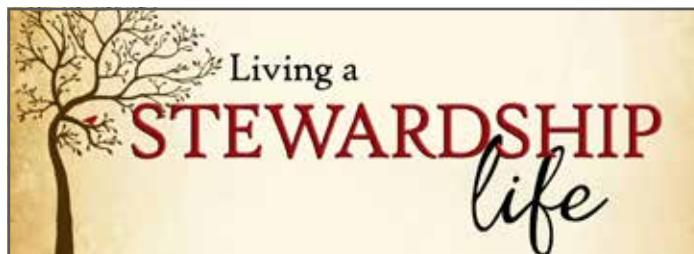
Friday, November 20

Saturday, November 21

8:30–11:45 am RE at All Saints Academy
 9:00 am–2:00 pm Blood Drive at Rubin Center Downtown Naperville
 3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Galilee
 4:30–5:30 pm RE Fourth Grade Mass, Church

Sunday, November 22

9:00–11:30 am RCIA, Senior Center
 4:30–5:45 pm Journey 1 Class, Youth Center
 7:15–8:30 pm Journey 1 Class, Ministry Center



"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Pt 4:10).

Thanksgiving is approaching, a time we stop and think of the blessings we have received. God has given us an abundance of blessings, if you stop and think. Our family, our friends, hopefully, good health, or a roof over our heads. But there are those who cannot count those things as blessings. How can we help?

God has given us gifts of time, talent and treasure. We can use those gifts to help those less fortunate than we. As you stop and think of your blessings, also stop and think how you can reach out to someone in need.

One small way is to participate in our Thanksgiving Turkey Drive next weekend. Collections will be taken Saturday, November 21 from 4:00–6:00 pm and Sunday, November 22, 8:30–12:00 pm. Help make a family's Thanksgiving warmer. And, as you sit down to your dinner, pray for those who are not as fortunate as you.

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

November 1, 2020	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$13,667
Credit Card Online Giving	\$16,511
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$4,760
Total for the week	\$34,938
<small>*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation</small>	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$584,595
Weekly Average 7/1/2019 to date	\$32,477
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$606,404
Over/short of goal to date	(\$21,809)
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,751,833
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	33%
Remaining for Fiscal Year goal	\$1,167,238

This week, the Sunday collection is \$21,809 behind goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$485 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

Diocesan Appeal 2020

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,600
Pledges Received	\$143,604
Percent of Goal pledged to date	82.25%
Unpaid pledges	\$10,350
Paid to Date	\$133,254
Percent of goal paid to date	76.32

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!

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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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