

# St. Thomas

DECEMBER 6, 2020 — SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

A VOICE CRIES OUT:  
IN THE DESERT PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!  
MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE WASTELAND A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD!  
EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED IN,  
EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW.

ISAIAH 40:3-4



SECOND SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**  
DECEMBER 6, 2020

# St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois • Most Rev. Ronald A. Hicks, Bishop

## Parish Staff

### Priests in Residence

Rev. Philip Danaher, *Pastor*, x102, [pdanaher@stapostle.org](mailto:pdanaher@stapostle.org)

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

### Priests Assisting on Weekends

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

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

### Permanent Deacons

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Liturgy and Music

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

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

### Faith Formation

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

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

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

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

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

Beth Cecil, \* *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, [REAdmin@stapostle.org](mailto:REAdmin@stapostle.org)

Jenni Kennedy, \* *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, [REAdmin@stapostle.org](mailto:REAdmin@stapostle.org)

### Outreach and Social Justice

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

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

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

### Pastoral Care

Jan Olah, *Director of Pastoral Care*, x124

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

### Administration

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

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

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

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

Chris Ridge, \* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

Mary Wright, \* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

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

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

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

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

### Parish Pastoral Council

Barbara Mambu, *Chair*

Alison Ohl

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 Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In his Prayer for Generosity, St. Ignatius of Loyola asks for guidance in living selflessly. “Teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost . . . to labor and not to ask for reward, save that of knowing that I do your will.”

This prayer comes to mind as I reflect on the faithful service of our nation’s elder religious. These women and men

— Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests — never stopped to count the cost as they educated the young, cared for the sick and sustained the poor and the outcast. In so doing, they made an inestimable contribution to the Church in the United States, establishing Catholic schools, hospitals and social-service agencies.

Today, many senior religious continue to manifest God’s love and generosity by serving in a wide range of volunteer activities. Others, though sometimes frail and infirm, remain dedicated to a ministry of prayer. Nearly all are challenged by the rising cost of care. Most elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a substantial gap in retirement savings. A majority of religious communities now struggle to provide necessary medications, nursing care and basic services for their older members.

Next weekend, our parishes will be conducting the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an opportunity for each of us to emulate the generosity exemplified by our senior religious. While I understand many of you have financial difficulties of your own; I ask simply that you give what you can. Please join me in supporting the Retirement Fund for Religious and in praying for God’s continued blessing on our nation’s elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

Paz y bien,

**Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks**  
**Bishop of Joliet**



## Second Sunday of Advent

**December 6, 2020**

*Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low.*  
— Isaiah 40:4

### Liturgy Schedule

#### Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday – Friday

*In addition, the St. Thomas Deacons record a Daily Prayer Service that is available to watch on demand at [www.stapostle.org](http://www.stapostle.org)*

#### Weekend — Must sign up online to attend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 9:30 am

*Both weekend Masses will also be livestreamed and available to watch on demand at [www.stapostle.org](http://www.stapostle.org)*

#### Reconciliation

*St. Thomas offers the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the Saturday 4:30 pm Mass. Reconciliation will be from 3:30–4:15 pm in the Galilee Room. Please check the website for full details.*

## Welcome Guests and Visitors!

We’re so glad you’re here and invite you to walk the path of faith with us. St. Thomas strives to provide a spiritual home where all are welcome, where the healing, reconciling, liberating love of God is shared by all. Join us!

### Would you like to become a parishioner?

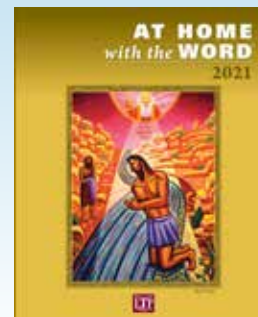
Call Kathy Ferguson in the General Office at 630.355.8980, x100

## 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 Commission — Liturgy and Music

## Reflection on the Readings

Today's readings urge us to prepare for and be open to God's presence in our lives. We have been taught that this presence is ongoing, yet it doesn't always seem so. We need to work to overcome fear and doubt, especially in challenging times, but the task need not be a frantic effort. These readings carry warnings and longings, but the operative words are comfort, tenderness and hope. We wait and prepare because of the promise.

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — The rugged land shall be made a plain; the rough country, a broad valley (Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11).

**Psalm** — Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation (Psalm 85).

**Second Reading** — Conduct yourselves in holiness, hastening the coming of the day of God (2 Peter 3:8-14).

**Gospel** — I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:1-8).

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:** Is 35:1-10; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12;  
Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10; Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1, 9, 10-13ab; Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19; Ps 1:1-4; Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab;  
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,  
or any readings from the Common of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712

**Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54;  
1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

## Prayer

*Gracious and awesome God,*

*In the midst of all that the world is and will be, you come.*

*In the midst of all that is evil and horrific, you come.*

*In the midst of our hopelessness and despair, you come.*

*Come now, and remove our blindness,*

*To see clearly how things really are in our world,*

*In our relationships,*

*And in our own hearts.*

*Come now, and fill us with the hope*

*That comes from you alone,*

*And the truth that will truly*

*Bring your presence to birth.*

*Amen.*

## Presider Schedule December 12–13

**Saturday, December 12**

4:30 pm — Fr. Matt Lorenz

**Sunday, December 13**

9:30 am — Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal 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, December 7, 2020**

*Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

8:30 am †Varghese Paliyath, by Sophia Andony

**Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

8:30 am †Dean DeGeeter, by Loretta DeGeeter

7:00 pm †Winnie McMahon, by The Wycklendt Family

**Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

8:30 am †Harriet (Hattie) Bax Vander Laan, by The Ferguson Family

**Thursday, December 10, 2020**

8:30 am †Thomas Crower, by The Rohan Family

**Friday, December 11, 2020**

8:30 am †Robert and Jeffrey Cornell, by Sue Cornell Ohl

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Maryann and Sam Poerio, by Ann Worden

†Florence and Shannon Worden, by Ann Worden

**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

8:00 am For the People of St. Thomas

9:30 am †Marge Fortuna, by The Family of Dolores Michaels

†Liona Janose, by Rose Thomas

11:15 am †Margaret Gambs, by The Nesterowicz Family



## A Note about Christmas Mass Celebrations

Dear Parish Family,

*This Christmas will be unlike any other we have known at St. Thomas. With necessary coronavirus restrictions on seating capacity (125 seats), many will be disappointed to find there is no "room at the inn" for Christmas Mass celebrations.*

*If you are not able to register online for Christmas Mass, we hope that you join us virtually by livestream, either from the comfort of your home, or in the church parking lot where we will also be offering communion with established safety protocols.*

*If you do register for a seat on Christmas, consider allowing other parishioners to register for Masses during our 12 days of Christmas. Please remember that mass obligation is suspended indefinitely in the Diocese of Joliet.*

In the Word,

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. Even though this year's Christmas celebration will be different, we still gather as a faith community to celebrate the miracle of the first Christmas. We are working to provide various opportunities for the St. Thomas faith community to gather, whether it be in the church space, in the parking lot or virtual. Please see the Advent brochure online for complete details.

### Advent Reconciliation – December 16

St. Thomas will have an Advent Reconciliation Service on December 16 at 7:00 pm. The opportunity for individual confessions with a Priest will conclude the service.

## Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

### C.A.R.E. CORNER

One of the big issues gripping our nation right now is that of racial injustice. It has been made painfully clear to us in this country that there are groups of people who do not enjoy the benefits of citizenship to the full degree that others do. And that is just not right. Unfortunately, such injustices are not a new development; they have been a reality throughout all of human history. Our Church is currently in the special liturgical season of Advent in which we anticipate the coming of our Savior, remembering the birth of Jesus 2,000 years ago. Jesus himself was on the receiving end of many injustices, even before he was born.

Jesus was born into a Jewish family and the Jews at that time were oppressed — politically, religiously, economically and socially — by the powerful Roman Empire. In order to comply with the law, Jesus' parents had to leave home and travel out of town in the late stage of Mary's pregnancy. Their baby was born away from the support of family and friends. They had to flee to another country to avoid dangers imposed by their own religious leaders. All these would have been challenges by themselves, but even more so for a family of modest means. A difficult start indeed for an innocent new life. And as we know, that would not be the last of the injustices that Jesus suffered over the course of his human journey. But we'll get back to that later in this series.

### Advent by Candlelight 2020

No matter how young or old we are, when times get tough we long for the warm embrace, comfort and nurturing of Mom. This year we seem to need it more than ever. Join in "Mary, Mother of Us All," our Advent by Candlelight via Zoom on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm to experience the love and care of Our Blessed Mother through devotions to her from around the world. Decorate your table at home with your finest or homiest setting, perhaps including a statue or picture of Mary and have at hand some "comfort food" — an appetizer, dessert or favorite beverage (or all 3!). Bring a rosary, as prayer will be woven into all aspects of the evening.

Pre-registration and an email address is needed, as the Zoom link will be sent to you on December 6.

Contact the Faith Formation Office at 630.355.8980, x118 or readmin@stapostle.org.



You are invited to make a donation toward the Christmas Environment/Flower Fund in recognition of a loved one. The names of these individuals will be on a display board at the Christmas Masses. A suggested donation of \$10 per name (exact change or check made payable to St. Thomas the Apostle) should be sent in with the order form. The completed form and payment should be placed in an envelope, to the "Attn of Kathy Ferguson" and can be mailed in, brought in through Door A during the building open hours or placed in the offertory collection basket. **Orders must be received by Monday, December 21.**

## Christmas Environment/Flower Fund

*I would like to make a contribution*

In Honor of:

---

---

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

By:

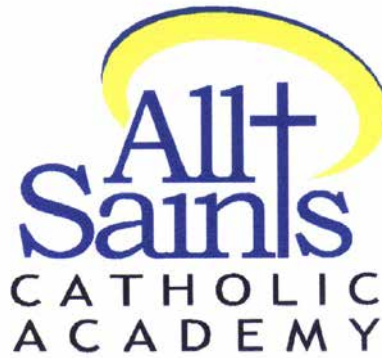
---

---

PHONE #

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

*Please return this form to the church office by Monday, December 21.*



## News from All Saints Catholic Academy

### Our Amazing Art Classes at ASCA

The Art program at All Saints is thriving this year in our in-person environment! It is **such a blessing** to be able to continue our **incredible art program** as we individualize the activities by class and grade. Even though our program is running a bit differently this year, our **ASCA artists are hard at work** creating individual pieces in their own classrooms.

All art supplies are brought to the classroom; and art lessons are taught with the same curriculum and medium. In our Junior High wing, students are able to participate in art activities in a new lab created with safety in mind. Desks are spaced at a safe distance, and surrounded with plexiglass for added protection.



Our first **collaborative school project** involved **all students adding designs with line, pattern and color to the outline of their own hand.**

These hands were put together to create a school mural expressing this year's theme **"Together We Can."**

We are now enjoying working hard on our Christmas compositions so the finished products can decorate the students' homes during the holidays!

We are all **so grateful** to be able to continue the **rich art program face to face with all our students** at All Saints!!

**A big thank you to our ASCA cornerstone sponsor:**

**Allie Co Creative + Marketing Services**

**For your generous partnership in the All Saints  
2020 Dinner Dance Auction — The Crystal Gala**



# Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



St. Thomas the Apostle

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Children's Liturgy of the Word During Advent

Make Advent a special time with your children by reading and doing children's Liturgy of the Word together. Contact Lorraine Katz at [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x109 for Children's Liturgy of the Word materials. It is available for you. They are geared for prekindergarten through fifth grade.



### Fit to be a King?

Do you want to be a king for Epiphany? St. Thomas is celebrating Epiphany at the January 2–3 weekend Masses. As a king, you will be part of the Mass procession and talk about the meaning of your gift to Jesus. Contact Lorraine Katz at [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x109 for more information.

### Children's Mass Booklet for Second Graders

Reminder parents of second grade homeschool RE children: St. Thomas has a children's Mass booklet for you to pick up at the Church. Second grade homeschool RE children are learning about the Mass in their lessons on December 5 and 8. The booklet will aide in the lesson and attending Mass in general. It will also help in preparing your child for their First Eucharist. Please use this often with your child as you attend Mass.

### Reconciliation Parent Enrichment Session

The parent enhancement session for Reconciliation is now scheduled for Wednesday, January 27 from 7:15 pm–8:30 pm. A make-up parent enrichment session is now scheduled for Saturday, January 30 from 11:00 am–12:15 pm. An RSVP for this is needed and appreciated. Please RSVP for one of these sessions by contacting the faith formation office at [readmin@stapostle.org](mailto:readmin@stapostle.org).

It is necessary that the parents of fourth or fifth grade children, who haven't received the sacrament of Reconciliation and haven't attended a session previously, attend a session. It aides in preparing your child for this sacrament in March. Please remember to bring your registration form to the session. This is for parents only. If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Katz at [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x109.

### Second and Fifth Grade Aides Needed

Are you looking for ways to support the faith of our children and have fun? The elementary RE program is looking for classroom aides for second and fifth grade classes on Saturday at All Saints Catholic Academy from 8:30–9:45 am. No experience needed just a love of our faith. Class size is small. Please contact Lorraine Katz to join the fun at [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x109.

### Reminder for Fifth Graders

Reminder all fifth grade RE children are at St. Thomas gym during RE class time Saturday, December 5 from 8:30–9:45 am or Tuesday, December 8 from 4:30–5:45 pm to learn about "The Reason for the Season."

Fifth grade homeschool RE children are also invited. Fifth grade homeschool RE children, kindly RSVP to the faith formation office. Children will make ornaments for a tree in the gathering area.

### Question of the week ...

During Advent, how will your family prepare for Christmas?



## Advent Playlist

The season of Advent encourages us to slow down and ponder ... to ponder Christ's first coming in the miracle of Christmas ... to ponder Christ's second coming at the end of time. Yet, often, Advent is anything but quiet and relaxed. This playlist is full of ideas to help you or your family have meaningful Advent time. Check out the Advent playlist on the St. Thomas website.

## 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](mailto:cbraun@stapostle.org) by December 9. Although we may not be able to gather in person, we are still St. Thomas!

## 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.

### Important Dates for Elementary RE

#### Saturday

December 12 RE Classes meet

#### Tuesday

December 8 RE Classes meet

December 15 RE Classes meet

### Important Dates for Middle School RE

December 12 Saturday middle school RE classes meet

December 7, 14 Monday middle school RE classes meet

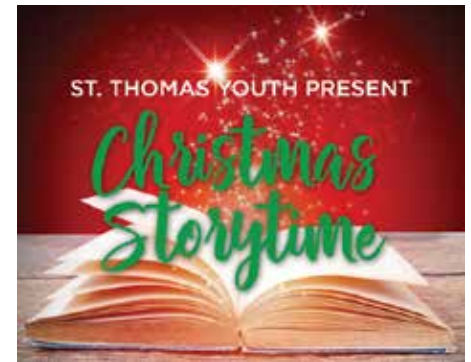


## Teens with Character

Middle school students ... Teens with Character will meet on Sunday, December 6, 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!



## Christmas Storytime

In need of a little Christmas? Let the St. Thomas Youth put you in the spirit with a Christmas story.

The St. Thomas youth recorded the reading of some Christmas stories that we will post on the St. Thomas website throughout the Advent season.

Gather the family, sit back, relax and listen to a Christmas story or two. Enjoy!

# Service Commission — Pastoral Care

## Blood Drive Recap

COVID-19 can challenge us but not defeat us!

Thank you to all the heroes who donated blood on November 21 at the Rubin Center in Naperville. It was such an easy way to save lives and we saved 72 lives.

Great job St. Thomas!



## From the Office of the Parish Nurse

### Coronavirus grief:

#### Coping with the loss of routine during the pandemic

The pandemic has changed people's lives in many ways. In addition to feeling grief over the loss of life caused by COVID-19, you're likely grieving the loss of your normal routine.

Efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have affected people's jobs, where people work, the way kids go to school and play, and the ability to gather in person with family and friends. These measures have also changed how people shop, worship, exercise, eat, seek entertainment and celebrate holidays and special events. As a result, the pandemic has a major psychological impact, causing people to lose a sense of safety, predictability, control, freedom and security.

Grief might cause you to feel numb or empty, angry, or unable to feel joy or sadness. You might also have physical symptoms, such as trouble sleeping or eating, excess fatigue, muscle weakness or shakiness. You might have nightmares or socially withdraw.

As awful as it might feel, grief serves an important purpose. Grief helps you recognize that you've experienced a loss and that you're going to adapt.

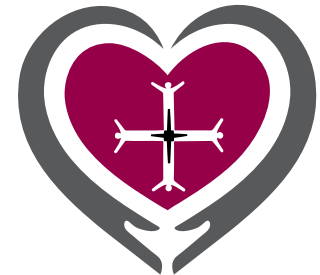
To deal with grief:

- Pay attention to your feelings
- Think about your strength and coping skills
- Stay connected
- Create an adapted routine
- Limit your news diet
- Remember the journey
- Take comfort in creativity

Focus on the present and the things you can control. As you adjust, your feelings of grief are likely to lessen.

If you're having trouble coping with your grief over changes caused by the pandemic, consider seeking help from a mental health provider.

*Resources: By Mayo Clinic Staff*



PASTORAL CARE

St. Thomas the Apostle

## 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



# 10 TIPS FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS



Seek support from other caregivers. You are not alone!



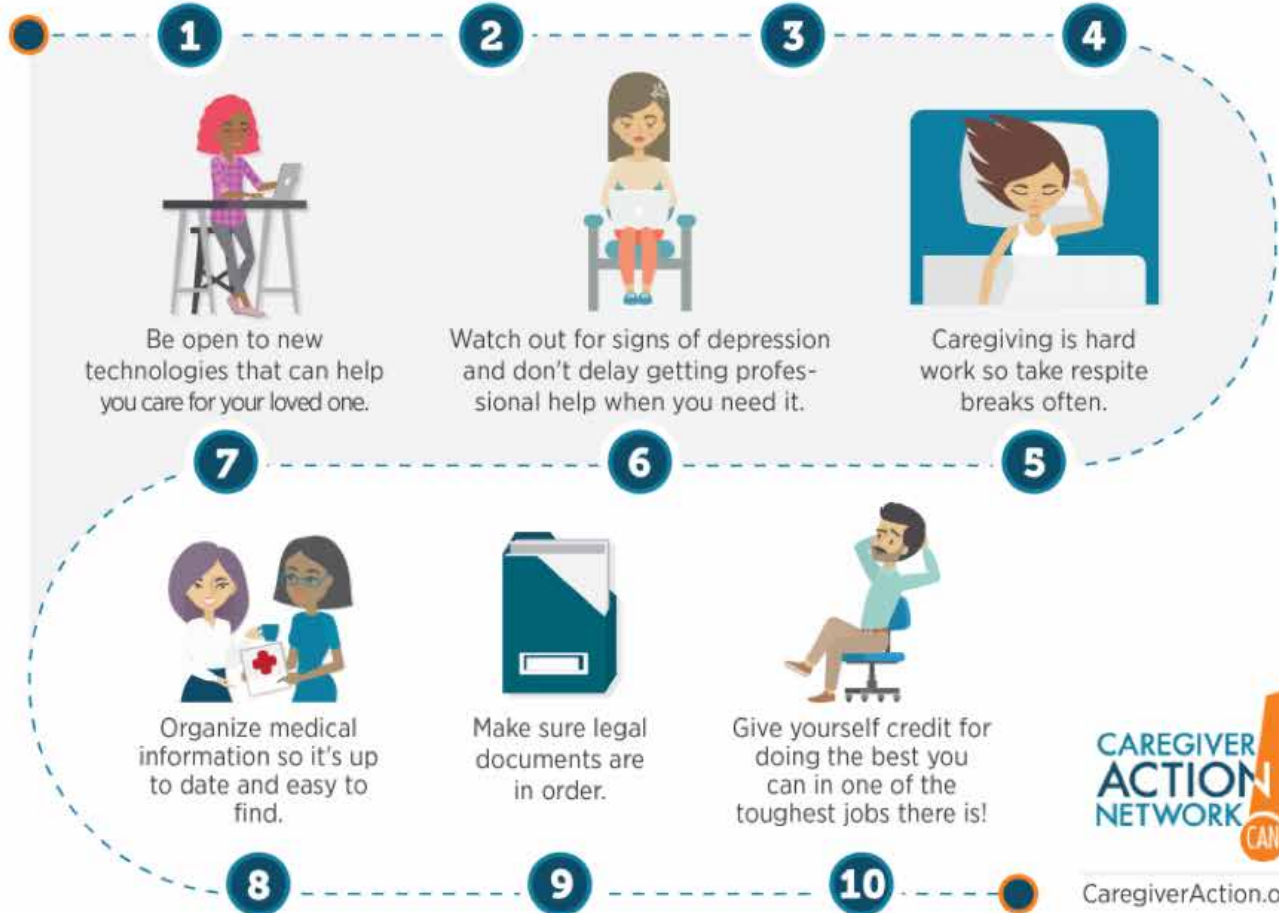
Take care of your own health so that you can be strong enough to take care of your loved one.



Accept offers of help and suggest specific things people can do to help you.



Learn how to communicate effectively with doctors.



CaregiverAction.org

# Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

## The Many Disguises of Emmanuel

Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
long awaited, eagerly anticipated,  
delicious dreams of royal robes,  
a messiah enthroned with elegance.

False notions and  
easily accepted illusion.  
a few open ones, full of surprise,  
heard the fresh, full cry of life  
echoed in the uninhabited heaven,  
the only place ready for a birth  
that was ripe.

Shepherds, sages, and scribes,  
drawn by angels and stars,  
discovered this divine simplicity,  
then hurried from the hillside  
with news that amazed them all.

But many years later  
the cry goes unheard,  
stifled in the roar of unyielding opinions,  
submerged in the noise  
of hasty judgments,  
masked in the false folds  
of cultural glitter.

The Surprising One continues to come,  
entering the world in endless disguise,  
concealed in those  
we have never forgiven,  
secreted in the hearts  
of people we despise,  
found in the rejected and unacceptable,  
hidden in the ones we ignore and  
criticize.

~ Joyce Rupp

*Taken from Out of the Ordinary ©2000  
by Joyce Rupp. Used by permission of  
Ave Maria Press. All rights reserved.*

## Haiti Twinning The Gift of Education

Throughout Advent season, Haiti Twinning is offering a Haitian Christmas card along with a picture of a Duchity student that you might send to your family and friends, perhaps in lieu of a gift. The gift of education to the children of Duchity is a gift that will last a lifetime.

A donation of \$50 is suggested, but any amount is welcomed. The goal is \$30,000 (\$19,250 collected to date). A Christmas card(s) with a picture(s) of a Duchity student will be mailed to you or you can pick one up at St. Thomas. Contact the OSJ Office.



- Checks can be made to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Haiti DEF" in the memo and mailed to St. Thomas OSJ (1500 Brookdale Rd, Naperville, 60563)
- To make an online donation, go to <https://osvhub.com/stapostle/funds/haiti-twinning-education>.

## Charity with Solidarity

For 21 years, St. Thomas, has helped build three schools, including a high school, and has helped support those schools in our Haiti Twinning village of Duchity. Education has made a difference. More than 95 percent of the children now pass the state tests. (The country average is less than 50 percent.) That improvement is directly due to the help St. Thomas provides to subsidize the salaries that guarantee quality teachers. The doctor and one of the nurses in the Duchity healthcare clinic are graduates of St. Thomas high school.



## Stay Connected to St. Thomas

[www.stapostle.org](http://www.stapostle.org)

Follow St. Thomas on Facebook

Download the St. Thomas App for your phone

## Thanksgiving Turkey Results

This year's turkey collection looked a bit different. There was no truck in the parking lot and all donations came via drive-thru. And people certainly drove-thru! The Thanksgiving turkey collection goal was 225. The total collected was 498! (For the sake of transparency, two of the "turkeys" donated were hams!)



The 498 turkeys were distributed as follows:

- 90 turkeys went to Fr. Dof's Parish (St. Patrick-in Joliet)
- 50 turkeys to the St. Nicholas Pantry in Aurora
- 12 turkeys to St. Patrick's Residence
- 100 to the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry in Aurora (they will hold onto these turkeys and distribute at Christmas)
- 99 to Care Pantry families.

Where will the remaining turkeys go? Possibilities are Fr. Dof, West Suburban Community Pantry in Woodridge, and/or held for later distribution to Care Pantry Families.

Thanks to everyone who donated a turkey or multiple turkeys. Your generosity fed many people!

---

## No Christmas Ham Drive

### Hams Will Still Be Distributed

This year, there will not be a Christmas ham drive. We will still provide hams to our Care Pantry families and to St. Nicholas in Aurora. Hams will be purchased using funds donated at past ham/turkey drives. We have the funds to do this based on the continuing generosity of St. Thomas parishioners. Thank you!

## 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.



## Racial Justice Focus

### OSJ Weekend

This weekend, the second week of Advent, is an OSJ Weekend. The first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

"A voice cries out: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God! Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill shall be made low; the rugged land shall be made plain, the rough country, a broad valley." We are called to prepare the way of the Lord. When we make the world a better place, we are preparing the way of the Lord.

In response to the recently announced St. Thomas Racial Justice Focus, we have invited Regina Brent, a member of the DuPage African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church to share her story and provide witness to racial injustice, as well as encouragement toward solutions. We all have a role to play in the solutions.

Regina Brent is a Social Action Commissioner with the DuPage AME Church in Lisle. She is the founder and president of Unity Partnership. The mission of Unity Partnership is to have a positive impact on the relationship between police and civilians by creating opportunities for interactions that foster mutual understanding, erase negative stereotypes, and develop new pathways for dialogue in the community.

# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, December 7

4:30–5:45 pm Journey 1 Class, Youth Center  
 7:00–9:00 pm Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center  
 7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE, Ministry Center

### Tuesday, December 8

10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry, Outside Drive Around  
 4:30–5:45 pm RE at St. Thomas, Ministry Center  
 4:30–5:45 pm RE Fifth Grade Advent Activity, Gym

### Wednesday, December 9

7:00–9:00 pm Advent by Candlelight, Zoom meeting

### Thursday, December 10

9:15–11:15 am Thursday AM Bible Study, Senior Center  
 6:30–8:30 pm YM Retreat Planning, Youth Center  
 7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Zoom

### Friday, December 11

### Saturday, December 12

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

### Sunday, December 13

9:00–11:30 am RCIA, Senior Center  
 11:15 am–12:15 pm Pre K and Second Grade Mass, Church  
 2:00–3:00 pm Baptisms, Church  
 3:00–4:15 pm Journey 1 Class, Zoom meeting  
 4:30–5:45 pm Journey 1 Class, Youth Center  
 4:30–6:00 pm Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center  
 7:00–9:00 pm Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center  
 7:15–8:30 pm Journey 1 Class, Youth Center

## Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

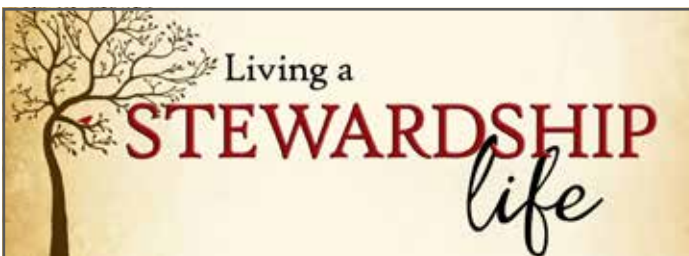
### Weekly Sunday Offertory

November 22, 2020	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$8,532
Credit Card Online Giving	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	\$27,715
Mailed in and stock donations	\$6,100
Total for the week	\$42,348
<small>*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation</small>	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$689,325
Weekly Average 7/1/2019 to date	\$32,825
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$707,471
Over/short of goal to date	(\$18,146)
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,751,833
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	39%
Remaining for Fiscal Year goal	\$1,062,508

This week, the Sunday collection is \$18,146 behind goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$36 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

### Diocesan Appeal 2020

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,600
Pledges Received	\$143,815
Percent of Goal pledged to date	82.37%
Unpaid pledges	\$8,437
Paid to Date	\$135,378
Percent of goal paid to date	77.54



"Hold out your hand to the poor, instead of demanding what you lack. In this way, you will multiply the talents you have received. The season of Christmas is approaching, the holiday season. How often do we hear people ask: 'What can I buy? What more can I have? I must go shopping.' Let us use different words: 'What can I give to others?', in order to be like Jesus, who gave of Himself and was born in the manger."

Pope Francis, *Journey With the Pope*

Imagine multiplying your talents by sharing your time and treasure. What a concept!



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!

**Two beautiful locations:**  
 44 S. Mill Street • Naperville, IL  
 (630) 355-0213 • Historic Downtown  
 15219 S. Joliet Rd. • Plainfield, IL  
 (815) 436-9221 • Rte. 59 & Rte. 30



**Friedrich Jones**  
 Funeral Homes & Cremation Services  
[www.friedrichjones.com](http://www.friedrichjones.com)



**FINDaPARISH.com**

**Check It Out Today!**

**The Most Complete  
 Online National  
 Directory of  
 Catholic Parishes**

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



**Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!**

Sign up here:  
[www.jspaluch.com/subscribe](http://www.jspaluch.com/subscribe)

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



**BORTER  
 HEATING & COOLING**



**24 Hour  
 Service**

**(630) 668-5885**



Consider Remembering  
 Your Parish in Your Will.  
 For further information,  
 please call the Parish Office.

**Naper Auto  
 Works**  
 Your One Stop Shop  
 Since 1977

**Free  
 Estimates  
 897-1538**

**KLECKNER**  
 Siding • Windows • Doors & More  
 Duanne Kleckner — Doug Kleckner

Insurance work  
 New windows  
 Re-siding  
**Use Local!**



320 N. Mill St.  
 Naperville, IL 60540  
**(630) 420-2886**

**WHY ADVERTISE  
 IN YOUR LOCAL  
 CHURCH BULLETIN?**

J.S. Paluch will create, produce and print your ad for less than you'd spend elsewhere. They help you reach consumers at extremely affordable rates and offer options to advertise effectively and keep pace with market change.

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

**GREAT COVERAGE - 97%** of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.

**GREAT VALUE - 70%** of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.

**GREAT LOYALTY - 41%** of households do business with a company specifically because they are advertising in the church bulletin.

**GREAT PRODUCT - 62%** of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.

*Advertise With Us!*



**Learn More About Advertising In Your Parish Bulletin**  
 Call us at **1-800-621-5197**  
 Email: [sales@jspaluch.com](mailto:sales@jspaluch.com)



**EXTERIOR DESIGNERS INC.**



**ROOFING • SIDING • DOORS**  
Deal directly with the owner,  
John Ferris. No salesmen.

[www.exteriordesignersinc.com](http://www.exteriordesignersinc.com)  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**630-674-5008**

**VOEGTLE'S**  
*Auto Service*

28 W. 224 WARRENVILLE RD.  
WARRENVILLE, IL 60555  
**COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR**  
SINCE 1975  
CHARLES VOEGTLE  
JOE VOEGTLE  
393-1436

**A Realtor Dedicated to Help Others  
with all Real Estate Needs.**





630.640.2107 • [yk@yvonneking.com](mailto:yk@yvonneking.com)  
[www.yvonneking.com](http://www.yvonneking.com)



**Your  
ad  
could  
be in this  
space!**

Quality Work – Reasonable Prices

**DEMMS PLUMBING & SEWER**



Ask for a  
**PARISHIONER  
DISCOUNT**

Lic# 102246  
**630.991.3641** EMERGENCY SERVICE  
[www.demmsplumbing.com](http://www.demmsplumbing.com)

**If You Live Alone You Need MDMedAlert!**

24 Hour Protection at HOME and AWAY!

- ✓ Ambulance
- ✓ Police ✓ Fire
- ✓ Friends/Family

Solutions as Low as **\$19.<sup>95</sup>** a month

FREE Shipping  
FREE Activation  
NO Long Term Contracts

CALL NOW! **800.809.3352**

**MDMedAlert**  
Safe-Guarding America's Seniors Nationwide!

GPS Tracking w/Fall Detection  
Nationwide, No Land Line Needed  
EASY Set-up, NO Contract  
24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

Please Cut Out This "Thank You Ad" and Present It The Next Time You Patronize One of Our Advertisers

**Thank You**

Thank you for advertising in our church bulletin. I am patronizing your business because of it!

**Ed the Plumber  
Ed the Carpenter**

**630.663.1444**

Best Work • Best Rates  
**WE DO ALL OUR OWN WORK**

Since 1965  
Lic# 055-026066

**PARISHIONER DISCOUNT**

Protecting Seniors Nationwide

**24SE+EN**  
Medical Alert System

**\$29.95/Mo.** billed quarterly

- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608



**Feze** ROOFING

Residential • Commercial Industrial  
Lic. #104000585

FREE ESTIMATES **630.530.5944**  
111 Maple Ave., Elmhurst  
[FEZEROOFFING.COM](http://FEZEROOFFING.COM)

1656 Briarheath, Aurora, IL 60505  
Immediate Occupancy **\$314,900**

Agnes "Cookie" Hanson, Designated Managing Broker  
1288 Rickert Drive #300, Naperville, IL 60540

CENTURY 21 Affiliated **(630) 272-9321**

**A - KEVELOH PLUMBING**

Remodeling • Repairs • Additions  
Custom Homes • Residential • Commercial

IL Lic. #058-124165 **(630) 963-0433**  
Family Owned & Operated Over 36 Years

**\$10.00 OFF W/AD**

**SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY**

**Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship of the Sea of the United States of America**

Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.  
Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email [eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com](mailto:eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com)  
[www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com](http://www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com)

**ONE PARISH**

Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!

Download Our Free App or Visit **MY.ONEPARISH.COM**

**catholicmatch<sup>®</sup> Illinois**



CatholicMatch.com/myill

**Say Good-bye to Clogged Gutters!**

CALL BY 9/30 TO RECEIVE **75% OFF LABOR\***

\* Does not include cost of material. Offer expires 9/30/20.

Receive a \$25 Lowe's Gift Card with FREE in-home estimate!

Call today for your FREE estimate and in-home demonstration  
**CALL NOW 708-462-6373**

LeafGuard<sup>®</sup> is guaranteed never to clog or we'll clean it for FREE!

- Seamless, one-piece system keeps out leaves, pine needles, and debris
- Eliminates the risk of falling off a ladder to clean clogged gutters
- Durable, all-weather tested system not a flimsy attachment

ENGLERT **LeafGuard**  
Get it. And forget it.®

**B & L Auto Body Inc.**

Free Estimates  
Insurance Work  
Expert Refinishing  
Complete Collision Repair

1340 W. Ogden Ave.  
Naperville  
Larry Frank  
355-0865

**Funeral Service**

**On-Site Crematory**

**Beidelman-Kunsch**  
FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORY, LTD  
Family Owned & Operated Since 1861  
JOHN W., JOHN L. & JOSEPH O. KUNSCH, DIRECTORS  
516 S. Washington St.  
Historic Downtown Naperville  
630.355.0264

24021 Royal Worlington Dr.  
Rt. 59/South Naperville  
630.922.9630  
[www.BeidelmanKunschFH.com](http://www.BeidelmanKunschFH.com)

**PHIL WALZ PLUMBING, INC.**

Specialists In  
Bath Remodeling  
Established 1967

1340 W. Ogden, Naperville  
(630) 355-0080 Lic# 058-062118

**B & L Auto Body Inc.**

Free Estimates  
Insurance Work  
Expert Refinishing  
Complete Collision Repair

1340 W. Ogden Ave.  
Naperville  
Larry Frank  
355-0865

**ASE** CERTIFIED

24021 Royal Worlington Dr.  
Rt. 59/South Naperville  
630.922.9630  
[www.BeidelmanKunschFH.com](http://www.BeidelmanKunschFH.com)

24021 Royal Worlington Dr.  
Rt. 59/South Naperville  
630.922.9630  
[www.BeidelmanKunschFH.com](http://www.BeidelmanKunschFH.com)