

St. Thomas

JANUARY 24, 2021 — THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



COME
AFTER
ME

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: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday–Friday; 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Saturday; evenings vary according to needs

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

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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

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

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

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Chris Ridge,* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

Mary Wright,* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

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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*

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 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

in the word



with
fr danaher

Dear Parish Family,

Today's first reading describes Jonah's ministry in the town of Nineveh. What is interesting about this story is that the people of Nineveh were not Jewish. Nineveh was part of the Assyrian Empire, now present day Iraq. Even though the people of Nineveh were not Jewish, God sent Jonah to call the

people to repentance, to change their hearts.

It was the same with the Son of God's ministry which we heard in the gospel. We heard Jesus' invitation in the gospel to anyone who would hear, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." His call did not only go out to the people of Israel, but anyone who was listening, Jew and Gentile alike.

In Psalm 51, we pray the following, "A heart contrite and humbled, O God, you will not spurn." As far as God is concerned, it does not matter whose hearts are contrite and humbled. God will not spurn, will never ignore the cries of anyone who call out to him for help.

St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Galatians, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." No matter what our faith life is, even if we don't have a faith life, we are all one in the loving and merciful mind and heart of God.

In the Word,

Fr. Danaher

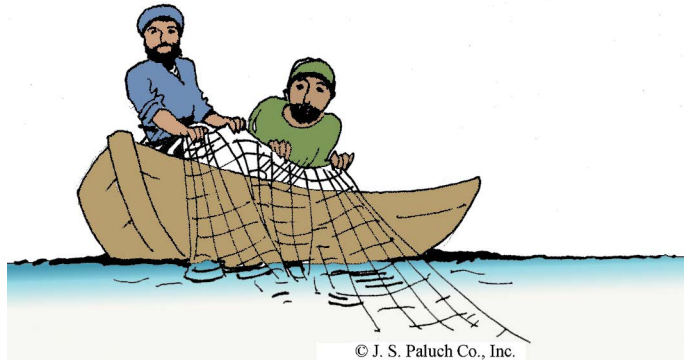
Shining the Light of Christ through the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal

It is time for the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Your gift is especially important this year, during the pandemic, as our diocese continues to explore new and innovative ways to serve those in need.

The 2021 theme is Shining the Light of Christ. The 30 ministries the CMAA supports allow parishes to join together to shine Christ's light to the benefit of many, from the poor and vulnerable to seminarians and schoolchildren. No parish could provide all of these ministries on its own.

Our parish's goal for the 2021 CMAA is \$174,100, and 70 percent of any amount we raise over our goal will be returned to us. This is a great opportunity for our parish! Please review the materials you receive in the mail from the Diocese of Joliet and prayerfully reflect on your gift to this year's annual appeal.

If you do not receive a CMAA mailing, please contact St. Thomas at 630.355.8980.



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 24, 2021

The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.

— Mark 1:15

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.

Church Office Hours

9:00 am–3:00 pm Monday–Friday

9:00 am–1:00 pm Saturdays

Evenings will vary according to needs. You can call to check on times before coming. Please enter through Door A.

Worship Commission — Liturgy and Music

Reflection on the Readings

Today, we are once again given an account of the call of the disciples. These Gospel stories are positioned in the early part of Ordinary Time for good reason. We know that the Lenten journey is just around the corner. That journey will take us once again to Jerusalem and to the cross and resurrection of Christ. One of the characteristics of discipleship is that one does not become a disciple solely on one's own. There is always a call, an invitation to follow the way of discipleship. When reflecting on today's Gospel, try to put yourself in the place of those early disciples who were casting their nets. They were simply doing their daily tasks. In the middle of those tasks, the Lord calls them. Perhaps that is where the Lord calls each of us — in the midst of our daily tasks. Let us open our hearts to listen to the invitation issued to each of us to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

~ from Saint Margaret Sunday Missal, copyright J.S. Paluch Company

Readings for Today

First Reading — The Ninevites turn from their evil ways in response to Jonah's message (Jonah 3:1-5, 10).

Psalm — Teach me your ways, O Lord (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — The world in its present form is passing away (1 Corinthians 7:29-31).

Gospel — Jesus proclaims, "Repent, and believe in the gospel." The new disciples abandon their nets and follow him (Mark 1:14-20).

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: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18

Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25

Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

Presider Schedule January 30–31

Saturday, January 30

4:30 pm – Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

Sunday, January 31

9:30 am – Fr. Philip Danaher with Deacon Jim Breen

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, January 25, 2021

8:30 am †Vernon Masters, by Linda and James Moore

Tuesday, January 26 2021

8:30 am †Jo Kuffner, by Gene Foley

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

8:30 am Special Intention for Healing for Steve Hill, by Al Adducci

Thursday, January 28, 2021

8:30 pm †Jo Kuffner, by Gene Foley

Friday, January 29, 2021

8:30 am

Saturday, January 30, 2021

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Judith Stalcup, by Jim and MaryJo Breen

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 am †Edward Singer, by Kathy Singer and Family

A Moment for Grace: A Prayer for Refugees

*God of our Wandering Ancestors,
Long have we known that your heart is with the refugee:
That you were born into time in a family of refugees, fleeing violence in their homeland,
Who then gathered up their hungry child and fled into alien country.
Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages: "Will you let me in?"
Give us hearts that break open when our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry.
Then, surely, all these things will follow:
Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.
Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.
Tongues will not be silenced, but will instead advocate.
And hands will reach out —
Working for peace in their homeland, working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.
Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.
May they find a friend in me and so make me worthy of the refuge I have found in you.
Amen.*

Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

There were numerous times in Israel's history when they were very prosperous. Unfortunately, those in power fell into the same traps as other nations who perpetuated injustices against them. Those in positions of economic, military and governmental power were supposed to serve the rest of the population, rather than shift policies, resources and power to their own benefit. The prophet Amos (2:6-7) exhorted the rulers of the people to take care of all people, rather than to take advantage of the most vulnerable. Immoral behavior was leading to unjust laws. And unjust laws led to further immoral behavior. Sound familiar?



When injustices did take place, great suffering resulted: their country was overrun by enemies; their crops suffered from blight and pestilence; the people experienced food scarcity. So what was the solution? The prophets were clear about that: return to the LORD! The prophet Jeremiah told them to admit their guilt (3:13), to no longer follow their wicked hearts (3:17) and to listen to the voice of God (3:25).

Body Prayer

Looking for a way to combat COVID fatigue and the winter doldrums? On Wednesday, January 27, 2021, join in a Zoom session at 7:00 pm with Patti Essig as she opens up the practice of "Body Prayer," encouraged by the Church from Julian of Norwich (14th century) to Fr. Richard Rohr and Sr. Joyce Rupp (21st century). Body Prayer, including simple movements and breathwork, seeks to integrate body and spirit in praising the Divine and offering thanks for life.

St. Thomas parishioner Patti Essig has taught and facilitated wellness workshops for 20 years. A trained labyrinth facilitator and Spiritual Director, her creations also include a cookbook and a poetry collection! To receive the Zoom link for this Wellspring-sponsored presentation, contact Chari Rosales at croales@stapostle.org.

The Mass: The Church Called and Sent

The Mass is at the heart of our faith practice, its "source and summit" as defined by Vatican Council II. Yet so many of us are struggling right now to attend Mass either physically or virtually. Why is it so important? Why do we do what we do? Does it really matter if we take part at all? On two Monday evenings, January 25 and February 1, join Chari Rosales, Director of Adult Faith Formation, at 7:00 pm via Zoom to take a step-by-step walk through the Mass — the who, what, when, where and why of it all. To register and receive the Zoom link please email croales@stapostle.org.

Help Wanted at St. Thomas the Apostle

FAITH FORMATION ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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

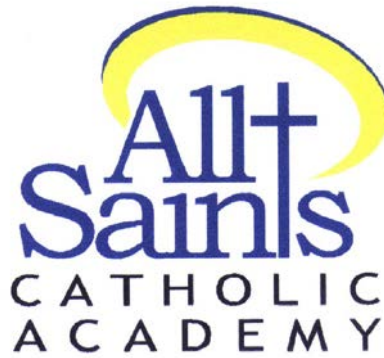
- Class registration responsibilities
 - Prepare registration packet based on input and modifications by the directors.
 - Process registrations which includes assignment to classes.
 - Maintain the database of classes, students, catechists/leaders.
 - Process tuition payments.
 - Document tuition due 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 February 9, 2021.***

Questions? Contact Kathy at mainoffice@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x100.



News from All Saints Catholic Academy

Registration for 2021-2022 School Year

Registration for families new to All Saints will begin Monday, February 1.

Registration information and forms are now located at the school website — ascacademy.org.

Applications will be accepted at the school from 9:00 am–2:00 pm daily, or can be sent to the school via mail.

**Do you have what it takes to be a Saint?
We think you do!**

At All Saints, **all are welcome!** We warmly invite you to join our school community and family. All Saints currently has openings at all grade levels. We encourage families from our sponsoring and supporting parishes who are interested in the **excellent academics grounded in faith** at All Saints to apply early to avoid disappointment, as ASCA was full and waitlisted all of the 2020-2021 school year.



Together We Can!

A big thank you to our ASCA Blue and Gold Sponsor:

Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home

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



For more information on **registration and enrollment for the 2021–2022 school year**, we invite you to visit our website at ascacademy.org, or call 630.961.6125.

Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



St. Thomas the Apostle

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Catholic Schools Week

St. Thomas will celebrate Catholic Schools Week during the Masses on the weekend of January 23–24, 2021. We invite those who attend our school, All Saints Catholic Academy (ASCA), as well as other catholic schools to wear their uniform to Mass. Feel free to contact ASCA with questions 630.961.6125 or www.ascacademy.org. The school is located at 1155 Aurora Avenue in Naperville.

RE Kindergarten Mass

All kindergarten RE children are invited to participate in a special grade level Mass on Sunday, January 31, 2021, at 9:30 am. This is your special Mass. Please reserve a seat Thursday afternoon for each person attending the Mass. Please bring soup or ramen noodles for a collection to the Care Pantry.

RE Second Year Table Presentation

Your second year in religious education child is invited to a special “Table Presentation” for First Communion preparation which involves learning about the sacred table versus the dinner table and practicing receiving Communion with unconsecrated hosts at St. Thomas Saturday, January 23, 2021, from 8:30–9:35 am or Tuesday, January 26, 2021, from 4:30–5:35 pm in the gym. It is required as part of the preparation for receiving First Communion. Please RSVP to Jenni Kennedy in the Faith Formation office at REAdmin@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x118, or Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109. When you RSVP, please inform us of any food allergies for the unconsecrated host. At this time, only children are permitted due to for safety issues.

RE Reconciliation Parent Session Reminder

The parent enhancement session for Reconciliation is on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, from 7:15–8:30 pm in the Church. A make-up parent enrichment session is scheduled for Saturday, January 30, 2021, 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.

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 or 630.355.8980, x109.

Important Dates for Elementary RE

Tuesday Elementary RE

January 26 RE classes meet
(Second Grade in Gym)

February 2 RE Classes meet

Saturday Elementary RE

January 30 RE Classes Meet

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 be a better follower of Jesus?



Ash Wednesday Family Prayer Service and Faith Activity

On Ash Wednesday, February 17, there will be a family prayer service with the distribution of ashes at 4:30 pm. Families are invited to attend the service together as a prayerful way to begin their Lenten journey.

On Ash Wednesday evening, from 6:30–7:15 pm, join us for a Zoom family faith activity. This will be a time of prayer and sharing. In addition, each family will make a craft that can be used throughout the Lenten season as a reminder of the journey and focus of Lent. Those families who register for this special evening will be asked to pick up their Lent activity packet at St. Thomas. The activity packet will include what you need to join in prayer and our craft, as well as the Zoom link for the meeting.

Email Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org or Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org by February 15 to register.

Scouting Religious Medal

Girl Scouts, American Heritage Girls and Campfire Youth — Now is the time to earn your religious medal. Please contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109 for more information.

Scouting Day of Reflection

The Joliet Diocese Catholic Committee on Scouting (JDCCS) invites you to their annual Day of Reflection “Help People At All Times.” It is open to all registered American Heritage Girls, all levels of Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Youth, Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA and Venturers. It will be on Saturday, February 27, 2021, from 9:00 am–1:00 pm virtual or in person in Darien.

For further information go to www.dioceseofjoliet.org/scouting then click on the Day of Reflection banner for more information and to register.

Important Dates for Middle School RE

January 25, February 1, 8, 22: Monday middle school RE classes meet.

January 30, February 6: Saturday middle school RE classes meet.



Teens with Character

Middle school students ... Teens with Character will meet on Sunday, February 28, 2021, 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!



Just5Days ... Summer of 2021???

Just5Days is a 5-day experience of service, hands-on learning activities, prayer and liturgy, and community building designed for groups of middle school youth. The Just5Days experience immerses middle schoolers in hands-on service to those in need as they learn about justice in engaging and exciting ways.

The Center for Ministry Development, the organization which organizes and plans the Just5Days mission trip experiences, is finalizing plans for the mission trip sites and dates for the summer of 2021. The wearing of masks, maintaining social distance and keeping parish groups together as much as possible will be among the expectations for this summer's participants.

Once plans are finalized by the Center for Ministry Development, St. Thomas is hoping, once again, to be able to offer this amazing experience. Be sure to watch the bulletin and St. Thomas website for updates.

Service Commission — Pastoral Care

From the Office of the Parish Nurse Too Much Salt Harms Organs

Even if you are not “salt sensitive,” meaning that salt intake does not affect your blood pressure, eating too much salt may still damage your blood vessels, heart, kidneys and brain according to scientists at the University of Delaware.



In this review of the evidence on salt and health, they found that high salt intake may impair the endothelium (inner lining of blood vessels involved in blood clotting and immune function), increase arterial stiffness (hardening of the arteries), weaken heart and kidney function and interfere with the sympathetic nervous system (the “flight-or-fight” response). This study further emphasizes the importance of monitoring sodium intake.

The USDA recommends that healthy adults consume no more than 2,300 milligrams (mg) of sodium per day.

Resource: www.environmentalnutrition.com



**“Trouble don’t always last ...
God is not through with me yet.”**

This day is new

New opportunities

Fresh encounters

Continuing grace and blessings,

Lord, help me to be open

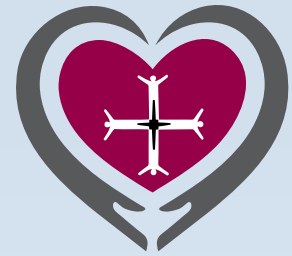
Accepting and receiving

All that You have ready for me

My troubles will not endure

You are not through with me yet.

Dr. Diana Hayes



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



From the Behavioral Health Ministry The Modern Dad

The modern dad does way more today than the dads of our ancestors. Dads are pushing the boundaries of “manly” stereotypes and doing activities that our great-grandfathers would probably chuckle at. A few examples:

- Laundry
- Vacuuming
- Cleaning the house
- Diaper changes
- Cooking
- Shopping
- Arranging play dates

Mothers have long played the dual role of homemaker and full-time employee. Many work full-time, come home and clean, care for the kids, rinse and repeat. For whatever the reason, many dads don't have the same knack for juggling all of those responsibilities. It is because of this that many are feeling the weight start to burden our mental health.

Fathers affect the quality and stability of the family.

It is essential for fathers to seek care when they need it, however, so many don't. A few likely explanations include:

- Men are left to figure things out when it comes to the transition to fatherhood.
- Men are poorer treatment-seekers.
- Men's options are a little more limited in mental health clinicians.

With these barriers in mind, it is essential for us to acknowledge paternal mental health and to encourage dads, and all men, to seek mental health care when they are struggling.

You have the power to influence great change in your family and even the future generations that come after you. The decisions you make today, positive or negative, are being evaluated by your children. Set the example: when you need help, ask for it; feelings are real, don't ignore them; and, you are no less a man for doing so.

Source:

Anthony Nedelman, Ph.D., is a fellow in the Department of Family Medicine at MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland. Dr. Nedelman is a strong advocate for men's health and is in the process of writing a book that addresses paternal mental health. You can find him on Facebook and Instagram, although he admits he is too tired chasing his kids to post as much as he'd like.

SUPPORT ST. THOMAS

Please, give

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.

Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

Haiti Twinning Sponsor-a-Child Thank You, St. Thomas

Education continues to make a difference in our Haiti Twinning community. 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. St. Thomas High School is the highest rated school in the large Grand Anse Area. Quality teachers assure a quality education. More than 95 percent of the students pass the government exams. (The average in Haiti is around 50 percent.)



St. Thomas High School Graduates:

- Dr. Nickson Polyte is now serving as the doctor at the Healthcare Clinic built by St. Thomas.
- Comesuze is a nurse in the clinic and is a member of the Clinic Board.
- Fabienne and Aliantine, two young women who grew up in Ertha's Orphanage, are now attending university, one studying nursing and the other agronomy (with the help of St. Thomas sponsors).
- Ertha's godson was recently ordained a priest. Fr. Emmanuel celebrated his first Mass at Ste. Marie-Madeleine on January 3.
- Carien has started her dentistry studies in Port-au-Prince, supported by Haiti Twinning dental funds. She will return to practice in Duchity.

Sponsor-a-Child funds collected help with the salaries for the quality teachers at St. Thomas Secondary/High School and Ertha's Elementary School. The goal in recent years has been \$30,000. The total donated this year was \$32,680! Thank you to all that were able to help!

OSJ Weekend Culture of Life

Normally in January, the Outreach and Social Justice Office (OSJ) and the Pro-Life Ministry provide a pro-life guest speaker with a focus on protecting life from conception to birth. This year, the guest speaker's reflection will be on the broader definition of life from conception to natural death. What does it really mean for followers of Jesus to be pro-life in our times, encompassing all aspects that relate to cherishing life and protecting life?

On the weekend of January 30-31, Brian Hickey will provide the homily reflection. Brian is an associate director in the Office for Humanity Dignity at the Diocese of Joliet. He graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a Master of Global Affairs degree in May 2020, specializing in Catholic Social Teaching and public policy. He previously served for a year with migrants and refugees in Djibouti, a small country in the Horn of Africa. He also worked as a teacher and coach at a Palestinian High School in the West Bank. Brian will marry his fiancée Kelli in June!

Pope Francis on the Dignity of Human Life

“Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development. Equally sacred, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery and every form of rejection.”

Rejoice and Be Glad (Gaudete et exsultate)

Coming Soon to Livestream

Choices for Life Are Always Possible

It may not seem that way for many women, especially young women who are facing an unplanned pregnancy. What would you say to a friend who was facing that situation and did not believe there was a choice for life for them?

The Pro-Life Ministry in partnership with the High School Youth Office is offering a “Choices for Life” workshop. The workshop will address the question above. There are alternatives. Parishioner and doctor Marie-Ange Ogoudou and Deacon Joe Cuzzone will lead the workshop.

1. High school youth and their parents are invited to participate live at St. Thomas on Wednesday, February 3, beginning at 7:00 pm.
2. All parishioners are invited to view the livestream. Specific viewing instructions will appear on the St. Thomas website and in next week's bulletin.

WHITE FRAGILITY

The St. Thomas Solidarity Coalition Ministry is periodically providing chapter summaries of the book "White Fragility" by Robin DiAngelo. We encourage you to purchase the book and follow along with us as we, as the author states, "challenge racism." It is a challenging book, and not always an "easy read." It might challenge your beliefs. That is a good thing in these times.

Chapter 4: How Does Race Shape the Lives of White People?

Being white in the United States means that you share with other white people a common set of privileged experiences that no person of color can claim.

Belonging: As has been mentioned in earlier chapters, most power structures are arranged hierarchically along racial lines, with white people holding dominant roles. In business, industry, education, health care, history, government and cultural and social interactions, a person who is white fits in racially at a "natural" level. White people are advised to avoid situations where they are in the minority because such situations are considered dangerous.

Freedom from the Burden of Race: White people are typically not aware of the ways their race affects the way they are treated. And while they may see unfair practices toward other races, they accept no responsibility, so long as they have not personally acted unfairly. People of color must always be aware of their race and how it is perceived.

Freedom of Movement: In America, white people have a presumed freedom to be in most spaces without fear of being questioned or threatened. This cannot be said for people of color.

Just "People": Whiteness is seen as the standard of normality. This is reflected, for example, in the prevalence of such events as Black History Month or in ideals of beauty represented in advertising, even in visual representations of spiritual figures such as Adam and Even or Jesus.

White Solidarity: This is defined as "the unspoken agreement among whites to protect white advantage" and to not confront racial discrimination when they encounter it. To break that silence could cause you to be deemed a troublemaker or too sensitive. This kind of racial solidarity preserves the status quo.

The Good Old Days: This mindset depends upon the history of white privilege as a longstanding ideal. For people of color the past represents repression and persecution. And yet, examination of our institutions shows that they are still controlled by a white elite, though some circumstances have changed.

White people generally expect that the burden of proving racial discrimination lies upon people of color. At the same time, they often hold opinions of other races as dangerous, accept segregation as a circumstance they are innocent of creating and hold on to segregation as a reasonable consequence of white superiority. The socialization that maintains these attitudes must be faced.

Question for Thought and Discussion: Which of the privileges discussed above do you recognize in your own thinking and experience?

Care Pantry Drive-Thru Donations

Care Pantry volunteers accepted drive-thru donations on Tuesday, January 12. People in 73 vehicles brought 301 bags of food/packages of toilet paper. Thank you to all who were able to donate.

The next Drive-Thru donations date is Tuesday, February 9 from 9:00–11:00 am and 4:00–5:00 pm. Check the website closer to the date for a list of needed items.



Human Trafficking Awareness

January 11–February 8, 2021 is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. During this month, we pray for the 40 million victims of labor and sex trafficking around the world.

Who Are the Victims?

Human Trafficking or modern-day slavery is a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts. The coercion can be subtle or overt, physical or psychological, according to the federal definition provided by the US Dept. of Justice.

Traffickers prey on individuals who are poor, vulnerable, living in an unsafe or unstable situation, or are in search of a better life. In the U.S., victims include some of the most vulnerable populations: American Indian/Alaska Native communities, lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-questioning individuals, individuals with disabilities, undocumented migrants, runaway and homeless youth, temporary guest-workers and low-income individuals.

~ Adapted from International Rescue Committee

Daily Prayer

God of hope and peace, touch our hearts and energize our ongoing efforts in abolishing human trafficking, a heinous crime against humanity, so that every victim is freed and every survivor's life renewed. You blessed St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan with compassion for others. May her prayers comfort and strengthen the women, men and children who are in search of freedom. We ask for transformation of heart for those who inflict pain, anguish and grief on our vulnerable sisters and brothers. Give us generosity to stand in solidarity with others so that together we heal the hearts and lives of all Your people. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, January 25

7:00–9:00 pm The Mass Part I, Zoom
7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE, Ministry Center

Tuesday, January 26

4:30–5:15 pm Elementary RE, Ministry Center

Wednesday, January 27

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Zoom
7:00–9:00 pm Wellspring, Zoom
7:00–9:00 pm Baptism Meeting, Zoom
7:15–8:30 pm Reconciliation Parent Mtg, Church

Thursday, January 28

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

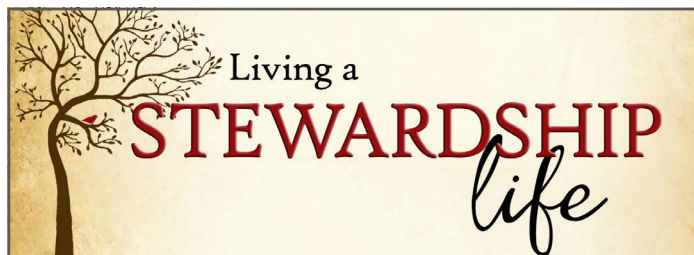
Friday, January 29

Saturday, January 30

8:00 am–10:00 pm Life Retreat, Ministry Center
8:30–11:45 am RE at All Saints Academy
11:00–12:30 pm Reconciliation Parent Mtg., Church
3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Cana

Sunday, January 31

8:00am–4:00 pm Life Retreat, Ministry Center
9:00–11:30 am RCIA, Rectory Basement
9:30–10:30 am Kindergarten Mass, Church
1:00–2:00 pm Baptism, Church
3:00–4:00 pm Life Retreat Mass, Church



"...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12

Many of our children attend Catholic schools, whether it be grade school, high school or Catholic university. Many of our children attend Religious Education led by a group of dedicated volunteers. In all Catholic education programs in our Diocese, our students are taught to be the light of which Christ was speaking. They are taught to spread that light through using their gifts of time, talent and treasure. And we are asked to spread that light by doing the same.

Our schools and religious education programs are partly supported by the annual Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal. You will be receiving more information by mail and in the bulletins.

Another way you can spread the light of Christ is by using your gifts of time to volunteer at Mass, as a greeter, usher, lector, Eucharistic Minister or sacristan. We would like to expand our Mass schedule, but we cannot do that without your help. Please consider being part of the Light of Christ. Thank you.

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

January 10, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$9,596
Credit Card Online Giving	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	\$22,257
Mailed in and stock donations	\$14,842
Total for the week	\$46,695
<small>*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation</small>	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$1,019,328
Weekly Average 7/1/2019 to date	\$36,405
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$943,295
Over/short of goal to date	\$76,033
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,751,833
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	58%
Remaining for Fiscal Year goal	\$732,505

This week, the Sunday collection is \$76,033 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$330 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

Diocesan Appeal 2020

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,600
Pledges Received	\$153,630
Percent of Goal pledged to date	87.99%
Unpaid pledges	\$5,405
Paid to Date	\$148,225
Percent of goal paid to date	84.89

Help Wanted

St. Petronille Catholic Church in Glen Ellyn is seeking to hire a Director of Young Adult Ministry. The Young Adult Ministry Leader will implement a comprehensive program of Christian life development for the 18–35-year-old, college, career, single and married adults in our community. It is essential that this person be able to connect with young adults on a social and spiritual level, with the intent of coaching them toward Christ-like maturity in the Catholic Church. The Young Adult Minister will also organize some annual programming for teens. Requires some significant background/training/catechesis in Catholic Theology. Undergraduate or Graduate Degree in Theology or Catechetics preferred. Some training in marketing or communications or recruitment preferred. To full a full job description, please click [here](#).

To apply, please email resume to frmilota@outlook.com. or call 630.469.0404 with any questions.

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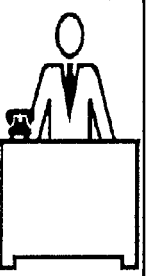
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