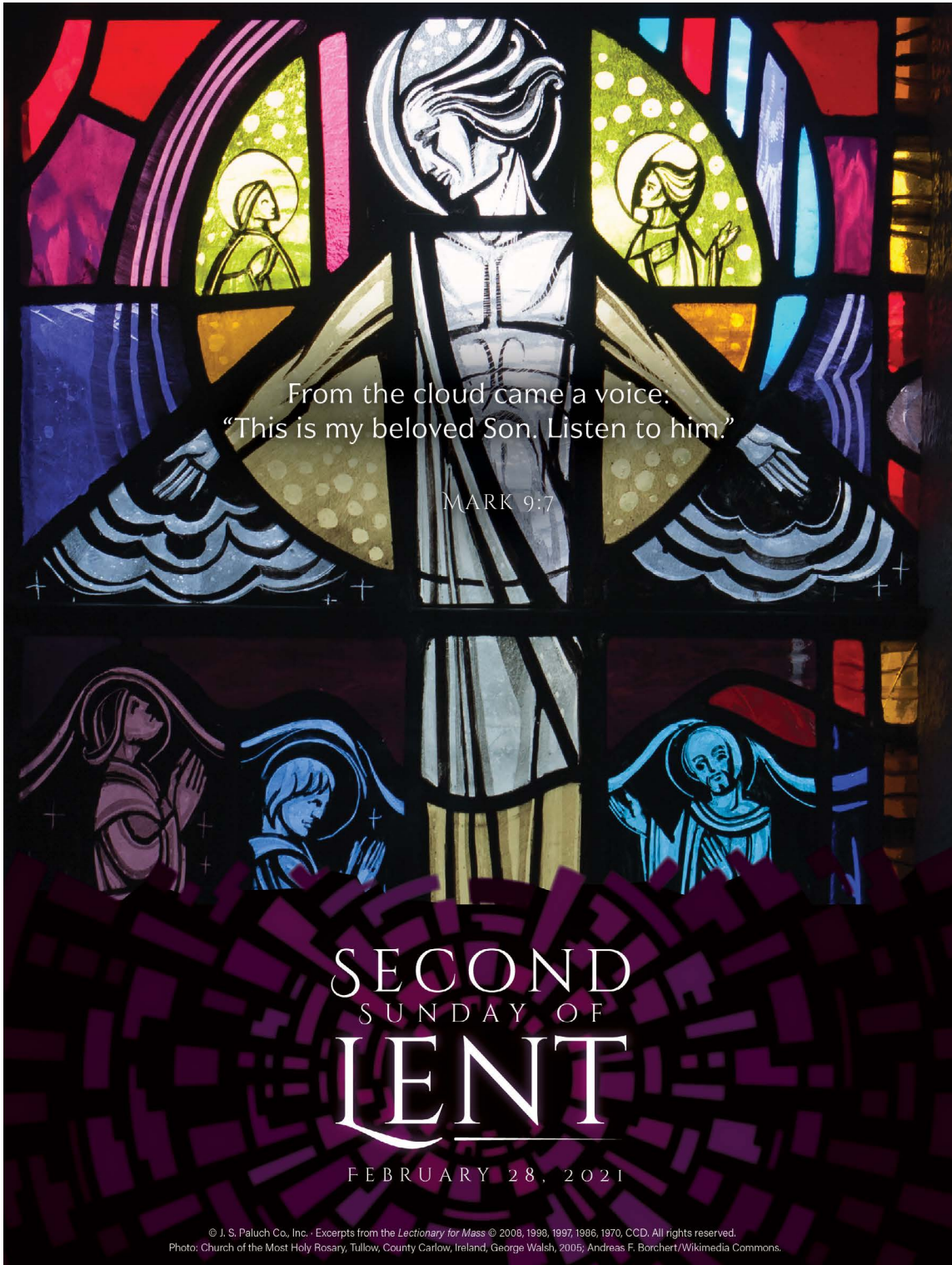


St. Thomas

FEBRUARY 28, 2021 — SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



From the cloud came a voice:
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

MARK 9:7

SECOND
SUNDAY OF
LENT

FEBRUARY 28, 2021

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

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

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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

Rev. 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

in the word



with
fr danaher

Dear Parish Family,

How often do we hear in the news about information being “leaked” to the press; that something which was supposed to be a closely guarded secret is mentioned on the evening news?

Today’s gospel story of Jesus’ transfiguration ends with Jesus “charging”

Peter, James and John to not tell anyone what they had seen on the mountain — Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus and talking with Him. It wasn’t a request. It was a command. The interesting thing is that Jesus had also “charged” the sick whom He had healed to not tell anyone, but they did anyway. Peter, James and John, however, followed our Lord’s command and did not tell a soul.

Moses and Elijah were not the only ones who were part of Jesus’ transfiguration. “Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, ‘This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him.’” The three disciples listened to Jesus’ command not to tell anyone because they heard God’s voice which encouraged them to treasure the words of Jesus.

As God encouraged the disciples, let us offer our encouragement, either personally or through our prayers, to Angel Tejada and Wayne Thomas as they prepare to make a Profession of Faith in the Catholic Church and receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.

As we show our support and encouragement to Angel and Wayne, let us encourage and support each other as we continue our Lenten journey to the joy of Easter.

Please remember that we will begin our new Sunday mass schedule next week — 9:00 am and 10:45 am. Saturday’s 4:30 pm mass remains the same.

In the Word,

Fr. Danaher



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Second Sunday of Lent

February 28, 2021

If God is for us, who can be against us?

— Romans 8:31b

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.

Welcome New Parishioners

Luis Eloy and Karelys Alfaro Alvarez

Church Office Hours

Please note the office hours effective through March.

9:00 am–8:30 pm Monday and Thursday

9:00 am–7:00 pm Tuesday and Wednesday

9:00 am–4:00 pm Friday

9:00 am–1:00 pm Saturday

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

History of Salvation

The first reading today continues the “history of salvation” narrative that we hear throughout Lent this year. Today’s story was among the best-loved in the Jewish tradition (surely Joseph told the story to young Jesus as he formed him in the ways of their faith); the early fathers of the Church were very fond of it as a means of explaining the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The overall tone of the first reading, psalm and second reading seems a little incongruous with the dazzling Gospel, until we remember that the Transfiguration was placed as the Gospel for this Sunday precisely to remind us of the glory that awaits those who live faithfully and obediently to the will of God. In the life of Jesus, it is a preview of the glory of his resurrection; for us it is a glimpse of the destiny of those who continue, as we heard in last week’s Gospel, to repent and believe in the Good News.

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Readings for Today

First Reading — The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith (Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18).

Psalms — I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living (Psalm 116).

Second Reading — If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31b-34).

Gospel — Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white (Mark 9:2-10).

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: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25
Alternate readings (Year A): Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

Change to Sunday Mass Schedule Coming Next Weekend

Effective Sunday, March 7, St. Thomas is adding a Sunday Mass so that there will be three in-person options each weekend. There will be a 4:30 pm Mass Saturday and then a 9:00 am and 10:45 am Mass Sunday. Please note the change in time for the Sunday Masses.

Sign-up will continue to be necessary and available on the St. Thomas website. All Masses will be streamed live with an outdoor communion option.

Presider Schedule March 6–7

Saturday, March 6

4:30 pm – Fr. Bob Colaresi

Sunday, March 7

9:00 am – Fr. Philip Danaher with Deacon Jim Breen

10:45 am – Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal 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, March 1

8:30 am †Mary Gowney, by John Gowney

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

8:30 am †Dr. Frank Folk, by Donald and Carolyn Coughlin

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

8:30 am †Steven Durnas, by The Durnas Family

Thursday, March 4, 2021

8:30 pm Special Intention for Healing for Mike Ingoldsby, by Ann Mitchell

Friday, March 5, 2021

8:30 am Special Intention for Healing for Nora Rivera, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

Saturday, March 6, 2021

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Tom Brauer, by Kathy Singer and Family

†Dorothy Siroky, by Helen Slenk

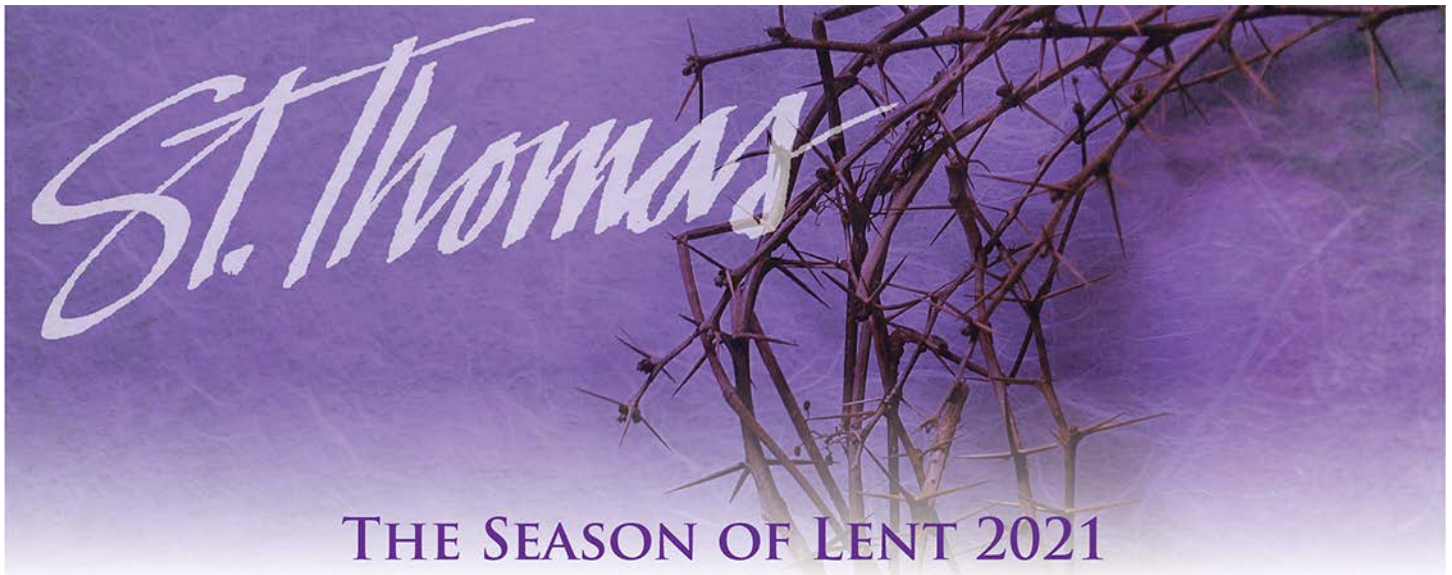
Sunday, March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

9:00 am †Florencio Puentes, by Kathy Ferguson

†Divine and Arthur Peria, by The Noronha Family

10:45am †Don Gutzmer, by John and Candy Clifton



Second Sunday of Lent: Surprising and Mysterious

Who is this Jesus shining before us in dazzling white clothes? The gospel tells us this: law-giver like Moses, prophet like Elijah, beloved Son like no other! He is the one who intercedes for us, who prays for us, who desires beyond hope for us an obediently devoted life now and a final heavenly life to come.

- In listening to the Beloved Son, what do I need to hear?
- How will this hearing change or better my behaviors?
- How will I walk before the Lord these Lenten days doing mercy work?

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent

7:00 pm in the Church

The Way of the Cross has always been a powerful and popular part of the faith tradition and devotional life for Catholics throughout the ages. The early practice of Christians attempting to retrace and walk the path of Jesus has always been a treasured way to commemorate the Passion and Death of Christ.

To maintain safety guidelines for our community members, Stations of the Cross will take on a different form this year. While all are invited to pray in the church space, there will not be a procession to each station. All gathered will remain socially distanced in their pew, with projections assisting the faithful in going through each station and providing verbal responses. Music will not be included.

Preregistration is not required but you will need to fill out a contract tracing form. You may fill it out upon arrival at St. Thomas or save time and download it [here](#) and bring it with you. Maximum occupancy is 125.

March 12, March 26

The *Scriptural Stations of the Cross* are based on those celebrated by Saint Pope John Paul II on Good Friday in 1991. They are an alternative to the traditional stations as a way of more deeply reflecting on the Scriptural accounts of Christ' Passion.

March 5, March 19

Through the simple, intimate, yet powerful words of *Everyone's Way of the Cross*, those on the journey are invited to grow closer to Christ by embracing the mystery of suffering in the world.

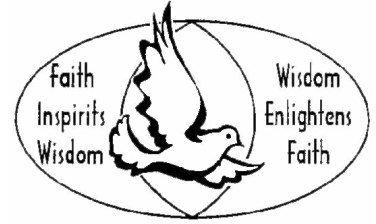
For information and a schedule of all activities and services during Lent from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday at St. Thomas, please check the St. Thomas website for the Season of Lent 2021 brochure.

Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

Our Church's inclusive philosophy and merciful practices spawned what we now call Catholic Social Teachings. There are seven of these teachings, and you are likely familiar with most of them. The first is the recognition of the inherent dignity of every human person and the sanctity of life itself. All the rest stem from this one essential truth. As social creatures, we are members of families and of the larger society. So we are expected to participate in the economic, political and legal policies that affect us all, for the purpose of seeking the common good. We have the responsibility to insure the rights of all people. We recognize the dignity of work as participation in God's creation and therefore, all workers have basic rights.

We also recognize that the poor have always been at a disadvantage and therefore, we extend to them a preferential option for care. Since we are all living on this earth together, we must take care of all creation. A sick planet cannot sustain healthy people or healthy animal and plant life. So it is necessary that as members of the one human family, we recognize that we are all in solidarity together. We know what we are supposed to do and how we are supposed to treat one another. Yet, we don't! Why not? It's a great question for personal reflection. Meet us back here next week for some additional thoughts and ideas.



A Lent podcast: "The Word"

A Lent podcast "The Word" is being offered by Fr. James Martin, S.J. and the staff of *America* magazine. A new reflection will be available every other day throughout Lent.

Subscribe to "The Word" on Apple, Spotify, Google or Americamagazine.org/podcasts.

Lenten reflections are also available through mayslakeministries.org and loyolapress.org.

These opportunities are offered to aid in deepening and enriching your faith life during the season of Lent and beyond.

How to be Married and Stay Engaged

The Inter-parish Marriage Enrichment Team presents its 13th Annual Event: How to be Married and Stay Engaged, Back to Back, Face to Face and Shoulder to Shoulder.

- Deepen your friendship and commitment
- Remember God's place in your marriage
- Enjoy a relaxing time together reconnecting

Live virtual presentation by Dr. Jim Healy Saturday, March 20, 2021, from 10:00 am–1:30 pm (includes lunch break) in the comfort of your own home.

For more information and to register visit www.imetevents.org.

CHALLENGE Yourself this Lent

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

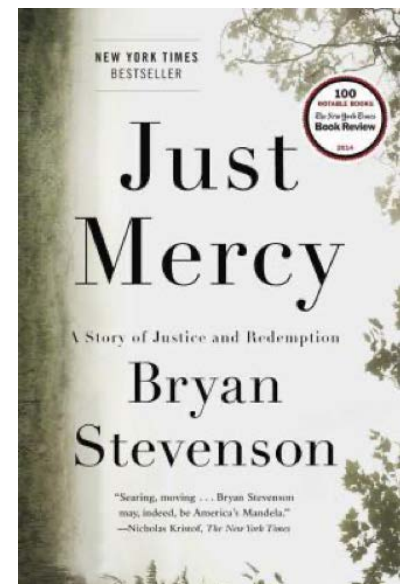
— Bryan Stevenson, Author of *Just Mercy*

Lent reminds us that our sinfulness does not negate our relationship with God. He is abundantly loving and merciful and waits for us to return to him. Examine this idea in the context of social justice with the story of Bryan Stevenson's work.

Join St. Thomas Reads: *Just Mercy* presented by the Faith and Spiritual Formation Commission

- Groups will read and discuss the book by Bryan Stevenson that examines the death penalty and the justice system.
- This is a 6-session commitment over 12 weeks.
- Discussions will be held on Zoom.
- Click [here](#) to sign up online now and groups will form based on interest and availability.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x123.



St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Celebrates Black History Month

Worship Commission and Racial Justice Committee

Starting in September 2020, the St. Thomas the Apostle community has undergone initiatives to bring forth the theme of Racial Justice to our parish. Following the cultural and political events of the past year, we felt it necessary to address this systemic problem from the lens of faith – as shown through our Mission Statement:

*St. Thomas the Apostle unites with the Universal Church in ensuring that all who love God, also love their brothers and sisters (1 Jn 4:21). Through a purposeful focus on racial justice, we are **challenged** to discern ways in which we, individually and as community, can grow into and act upon our calling to be disciples of Christ and the gospel mission.*

Throughout the month of February, St. Thomas the Apostle has traditionally celebrated Black History Month. We will continue to do so through Worship Commission and Racial Justice Committee Initiatives. Each week of February, the parish bulletin will highlight the life of a Black individual who has lived the life of Christ and has made a mark of the fight for racial justice.

Also through the publishing of articles detailing “10 Ways to Fight Hate,” and encountering our White Fragility, we hope to take the time during the Season of Lent to EDUCATE ourselves about Black History and our own involvement with the sin of racism and the fight for Racial Justice. We have reflected. We have prayed. And now, with changed hearts, let us move our feet into action.

Cecily Tyson

Cecily Tyson (1924–2021) was an actress who shattered stereotypes for Black women in the entertainment industry. By only accepting roles that portrayed Black women in a positive light, Tyson elevated herself beyond the confines of race — her choices earning her an Oscar nomination, Emmy Award, Tony Award and Kennedy Center Honor. As the daughter of Caribbean immigrants, Tyson was taught the value of hard work by watching her parents build a life for her and her siblings. Faith was also at the center of her life, recalling that “we did everything in the church. I played the organ. I played the piano. I taught Sunday school. I sang in the choir. And then on Monday, we had prayer meeting, and Tuesday, we had young people’s meeting. Wednesday, we had old people’s meeting. Saturday, we cleaned the church and Sunday, we were right back in the church. My entire social life was in and about the church. And so that is the basis of my foundation.”

This Christian foundation gave Tyson a path on which to walk and thrive, becoming a role model for many Black actresses. Her legendary status was not one she strived to create, but came out of her inner strength and drive to succeed in her craft. Tyson placed a focus not on what would enhance her career or fame, but what would advance the image and understanding of Black people and their stories.

In an interview only a week before her passing, Tyson was asked “when the time comes, what do you want us to remember about you?” She replied: “I done my best. That’s all.”

As St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church continues to work for Racial Justice through our parish wide initiative, we reflect on the life of Cecily Tyson. She came from the poor and lowly, put honor and respect before fame, and worked for the benefit and good of all. Cecily Tyson was a face of Christ.

The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’

Matthew 25:23

<https://www.npr.org/2021/01/28/621638033/cicely-tyson-commanding-actress-has-died-at-age-96>

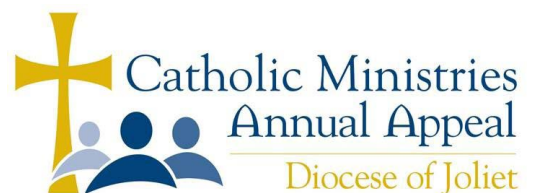
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cicely-tyson-dies-age-96-award-winning-iconic-actress/>

Pledge Your Gift to the CMAA

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged a gift to the 2021 Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal (CMAA). Every gift, large or small, brings us closer to our parish’s 2021 CMAA goal of \$174,100.

If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how you can best support the CMAA. If we raise more than our goal, 70 percent of the amount over goal will be returned to us for our use. This is an amazing opportunity for our parish.

St. Thomas recently mailed a pledge envelope to everyone in the parish. Please either return it, or the pledge card you received from the diocese, in the mail. You may also make a secure gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org or text DONATE to 815.205.1949.



Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



St. Thomas the Apostle

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

March First Communion Prayer Service

The March First Communion Prayer Service is “It’s About Celebrating In the Breaking of the Bread.” The prayer services are Thursday, March 4 or 11 at 7:00 pm. Please pick only one. Sign-ups are closed 24 hours before the prayer service. If three people are coming, please sign up three for three seats. Please bring your “My Mass Booklet” to the prayer service.

First Reconciliation Services Information

First Reconciliation services for fourth and fifth graders are at the church on Saturday March 13, 20 and 27 at 1:00 pm. Due to safety issues, only two parents and the child(ren) receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation may attend. Online reservations for the date of your Reconciliation service are requested. Please see your email for reconciliation reservations. Please contact the Faith Formation Office or Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109, if you have any questions with reserving your date.

Please pray for these children and their families that they may always know the love and forgiveness that God offers through this sacrament. May we too, know the joy of forgiveness that comes with this sacrament. Please contact the Faith Formation Office for more information about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Girl Scout Mass

The Girl Scout Mass honoring girl scouting is March 7 at 9:00 am. Show your Girl Scout spirit and wear your uniform to Mass.

Middle School Mass

Middle school students are invited to celebrate with a special Mass on Sunday, March 7, at 3:00 pm. Fr. Bill Etheredge will be the presider and homilist for the liturgy. Because there are restrictions on the number of people that can safely gather for Mass, preregistration (on the St. Thomas website) is strongly encouraged. Come, celebrate and worship together.



Save the date for
Scripture Safari
coming this summer
June 21–25, 2021.

Important Dates for Elementary RE

Saturday

March 6 — RE Classes meet
March 13 — RE Classes meet

Tuesday

March 2 — RE Classes meet
March 9 — RE Classes meet

Question of the week ...

How do you deny yourself for Jesus?





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!

Service via Zoom

In a recent Zoom class, Chris Baker's 7th grade RE class made no-sew blankets to donate to Ronald McDonald House. In addition, they also collected items on the Ronald McDonald House wish list. Thanks so much to Chris and her class for, together, finding a way to be the hands and feet of Christ, even while socially distant.

2021 Confirmandi

Congratulations to all those who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on February 13, 2021, with Bishop Ronald Hicks presiding. Our prayers continue to be with them all!

Ramon <i>Sebastien</i> Arteaga	Margaret Marusin
Tyler <i>Bernardo</i> Bresnick	Ethan <i>Christopher</i> Meyers
Emma <i>Clare</i> Buranosky	Ryan <i>Francis</i> Miller
Ryan <i>Michael</i> Carroll	Kyle <i>Richard</i> Mueller
Anthony <i>John</i> Cotner	Luke <i>Sebastian</i> Mueller
Lillian <i>Clare</i> Cuculich	Brooke <i>Teresa</i> Napolitano
Ryan <i>Isadore</i> Davidson	Sophia <i>Rosalia</i> Neill
Bella <i>Kateri</i> Delgado	Katie <i>Cecilia</i> Pastore
Sebastien <i>Anthony</i> Duchatellier	Joseph <i>George</i> Quaranto
Kate <i>Margaret Mary</i> Follin	Madilyn <i>Elizabeth</i> Saad
Courtney <i>Mary</i> Fournier	Marley <i>Joan</i> Schroeder
Alina <i>Philomena</i> Gasior	Alison <i>Agatha</i> Sutton
Michelle <i>Joan</i> Hess	Stephanie <i>Dymphna</i> Svec
Noah <i>Geoffrey</i> Hrubesky	Kaitlin <i>Teresa</i> Swanson
Logan <i>Michael</i> Jaramillo	Jacob <i>Christopher</i> Vu
Amelia <i>Agatha</i> Kellen	Luke <i>Francis</i> Wagner
McKenzie <i>Anne</i> Kolnicki	Hailey <i>Anne</i> Zoeller
Sophia <i>Joan</i> Lodge	

Just **5** Days

Middle School Summer Service Trip

Plans are underway for the 2021 Just5Days middle school mission trip. This year, the St. Thomas Just5Days group will be staying and ministering in Chicago from July 12–16. The cost for the week is \$340. Registration forms are available on the St. Thomas website and outside Peggy Goralski's office. If you have questions or would like additional information, contact Peggy at 630.355.8980, x123 or pgoralski@stapostle.org.

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. To learn more about the Just5Days program, visit www.just5days.org.

Important Dates for Middle School Religious Education

March 8, 15, 22 — Monday middle school RE classes meet

March 6, 13, 20 — Saturday middle school RE classes meet

March 7 — Middle School Mass, 3:00 pm

Service Commission — Pastoral Care

From the Office of the Parish Nurse:

What to Know About Allergic Reactions to COVID-19 Vaccines

Among 1.8 million people in the U.S. who've received the first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines, 21 have had severe reactions, known as anaphylaxis, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Though an anaphylactic reaction is potentially life-threatening, it can be quickly halted with medicines such as epinephrine. All of the patients recovered.

Some common signs of an allergic reaction:

- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Dizziness
- Swelling of face
- Hives

The agency recommends that vaccination providers have such emergency medications and appropriate

medical equipment available on site — and “not just have the EpiPen available, but know how to use it” added Nancy Messonnier, M.D., director. National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. (An EpiPen is an epinephrine injector.)

The CDC reported that so far the rate of anaphylaxis works out to 11.1 cases out of 1 million of the COVID-19 vaccines, compared to 1.3 cases per 1 million for the flu vaccine. But, Messonnier added, “that’s still exceedingly rare.” She emphasized that the COVID-19 vaccine is very safe and, considering that the U.S. has been seeing more than 2,000 COVID-19 related deaths per day, the dangers of the illness far outweigh the dangers of an allergic reaction, PLUS, “we know how to treat anaphylaxis.” There were no reports of anaphylaxis during trials for the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines

According to CDC guidance, people with a history of severe allergic reactions not related to vaccines (allergies to food or pets, for instance) may still be vaccinated. The same goes for people with a history of allergies to oral medications, those with family history of severe allergic reactions and those who might have a milder allergy to vaccines (no anaphylaxis), the CDC says. Just be prepared to be monitored on site for about 30 minutes after the shot.

Adverse events vs. side affects

An adverse event such as an allergic reaction to a vaccine is a health problem following a vaccination that might or might not be caused by the vaccine, according to the CDC. Side effects, on the other hand, are health problems shown in studies to be caused directly by the vaccine.

Side effects are extremely common with any vaccine, and are a result on the inflammation that’s part of the body’s immune response, said Barry Bloom, professor of public health in the department of immunology and infectious diseases at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, during a recent press briefing. That’s what allows vaccinations to work. He added that after receiving one of the current COVID-19 vaccines, you may have “a transient feeling like you have the flu, you feel lousy pain in the arm, fatigue, sometimes muscle pain.”

According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the most common side effects among participants in both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna phase 3 clinical trials were:

- Injection site pain and/or redness or swelling
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Chills
- Muscle Pain
- Joint Pain
- Fever
- Nausea

The FDA asks consumers to report side effects to the FDA/CDC Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). The CDC has a tool called “V-safe After Vaccination Health Checker” that allows you to relay any side effects to the CDC on your smartphone and receive reminders for when you should get your second vaccination.

Resource: CDC



**From the Behavioral Health Ministry
Association of Catholic Mental Health
Ministers**

Dear St. Thomas Faith Community,

On behalf of Pastoral Care and the Behavioral Health Ministry I want you to know how much we miss seeing those of you who are waiting to be vaccinated before returning to church. We have every reason to be hopeful that the time for us to come together is soon approaching. We want you to know that we are available to support you in any way we can now or when you return.

In that effort, I want to share with you that the Behavioral Health Ministry has received a grant from the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers for the years 2021 and 2022. We are so Blessed to have been awarded this additional funding to enhance our ministerial support for any parishioners struggling with mental health issues and the family and friends that surround them. The Association not only provides funding but also provides support through collaboration, information and training.

Our emphasis over the next two years will be to:

- Offer spiritual support to those struggling to assist them in feeling the presence of God in their lives.
- Provide that same spiritual support and comfort to those family members and friends who care for and help their loved ones.
- Offer all parishioners the education and information that fosters greater awareness and understanding about mental health issues.
- Address the stigma that prevents those struggling from reaching out for support.
- Provide community resources/referrals for those seeking assistance.

You, the St. Thomas staff and community, have supported this ministry in our efforts to welcome everyone into our parish. I ask for your continued support and prayers as we embrace this Gift from the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

God Bless,

Susan Kearney, Coordinator
Behavioral Health Ministry

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)



Blood Drive

During the month of March, we celebrate Dr. Seuss Day, Oreo Cookie Day and World Storytelling Day. What about adding Save a Life Day? While reading books, eating cookies and telling stories are good things, saving a life is a great thing! So let's declare Saturday, March 13, Save a Life Day!

Click [here](#) to reserve a time to donate blood. The link is also available on the St. Thomas website at www.stapostle.org. Remember, saving a life is a great thing!

You are eligible to donate if you received either COVID-19 vaccine on or before March 10. It doesn't matter which company's vaccine you received and it doesn't matter if it was the first or second dose of the vaccine.

Blood Drive

March 13, 2021, 9:00 am–2:00 pm

New Location

Fort Hill Activity Center, 20 Fort Hill Dr., Naperville, In the Multi-Purpose Room

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



SUPPORT ST. THOMAS

Please, give

Please Continue Giving to St. Thomas

We continue to follow the guidelines set 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



Drive-Thru Care Pantry

Want to honor Catholic Sisters? Donate food at the next St. Thomas Drive-Thru Donations Date on March 9!

Catholic Sisters Week is celebrated March 8-14, 2021. Recognizing the food insecurity in so many communities these days, the Sisters of the Congregation of St. Joseph say: "We can think of no greater way for people to thank us than by joining our efforts to feed the hungry in Christ's name!"

As you may know, Sister Marlene Schemmel, CSJ, started the Care Pantry here at St Thomas back in 1989. Let's honor her by making a special effort to stock it during Catholic Sisters Week.

Bring donations to St. Thomas on Tuesday, March 9 from 9:00–11:00 am or 4:00–5:00 pm. Place the items in the trunk or the back of your vehicle, stay in your vehicle and we will remove the items for you. Items will be collected outside Door C, which is across from the labyrinth. As you start to drive around the building, you will see orange cones with instructions.

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

- cake mix
- jello
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- side dishes
- cereal
- mac n cheese

Cash and check donations also accepted for the St. Thomas pantry. Make checks out to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Care Pantry" in the memo section. If you would like to send along a note to Sr. Marlene, these will be collected and forwarded to her.

Questions? Contact Anne Schultz in the Outreach and Social Justice Office, 630.355.8980, x113. Thank you for your generosity!

Black History Month Spotlight Toussaint L'Ouverture Father of Haiti

(St. Thomas has a long standing Twinning relationship with Ste. Marie-Madeleine in Duchity, Haiti.)

Toussaint L'Ouverture (1743– April 7, 1803) was a Haitian general and the most prominent leader of the Haitian Revolution. Louverture's military and political acumen helped transform the fledgling slave rebellion into a revolutionary movement. Louverture is now known as the "Father of Haiti".

Louverture was born a slave on the French colony of Saint-Domingue, now known as Haiti. He became a free man and began his military career as a leader of the 1791 slave rebellion. Louverture gradually established control over the whole island and used his political and military influence to gain dominance over his rivals.

Throughout his years in power, he worked to improve the economy and security of Saint-Domingue. Worried about the economy, which had stalled, he restored the plantation system using paid labor and negotiated trade agreements with the United Kingdom and the United States. He promulgated an autonomous constitution for the colony in 1801, which named him as Governor-General for Life.

In 1802, in the midst of the revolution, he was invited to a meeting by the French, but was arrested and taken to France and jailed. Deprived of food and water, he died in 1803. Although Louverture died before the final stage of the Haitian Revolution, his achievements set the grounds for the Haitian army's final victory. The Haitian Revolution continued under Louverture's lieutenant, Jean-Jacques Dessalines, who declared independence on January 1, 1804, thereby establishing the sovereign state of Haiti.



St. Thomas Cares Trapped in Motel Living.

Alice recently moved here from another state to leave an abusive relationship. She had some funds saved and was staying at a local motel. Her plan was to find a new job in the area and find a room to rent or a roommate situation. In the meantime she was doing Grubhub, delivering food from restaurants and groceries. She was making from \$100–150 a day and was doing OK.

But then a box truck rear ended her car and it was not repairable. It took her two weeks to get a check from the insurance company. She was then able to buy another car and go back to Grubhub, but by then her savings were gone. Alice's Grubhub earnings allowed her to live from day to day at the motel along with food and gas. But she couldn't save any funds to give her enough to pay a monthly room rent.

Alice called St. Thomas Cares and asked for one week in the motel. During that week she would be able to save enough money from Grubhub to get out of the motel and into a room. St. Thomas Cares provided her with one week at the motel.

St. Thomas Lenten Project

Help Small Village Families



www.unlockingcommunities.org

GOAL

\$10,000

Unlocking Communities
African Initiative

Providing self-sustaining economic, health, and environmental impacts in rural third world communities.

Small Business Creation

Unlocking Communities works in poor third world villages. They train people (mostly women) in smaller villages to be entrepreneurs (providing clean water filters and clean burning stoves for families). The new business owners often grow their businesses, incorporating other products. Those families that purchase clean water filters and stoves save money on water and fuel, improve their health, and help the environment.

Clean Water Filters



Clean Burning Family Stoves



Unlocking Communities was founded and is directed by one of our own ... Josh Goralski grew up at St. Thomas. He was inspired by his Haiti Twinning trips to Duchity. Lessons learned there in our efforts to introduce clean water filters led him to find a better way! To date, Unlocking Communities has impacted 10 Haitian rural communities and will continue their work in Haiti. They are working with partners in East Africa to replicate the model in rural African communities.

Make a Donation

- Attend Mass and place a donation envelope clearly marked "Lenten Project" in the basket at the church exit.
- Checks can be written to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Lenten Project" in the memo and sent to St. Thomas OSJ – ATTN: MIKE (1500 Brookdale Rd. Naperville, 60563).
- Credit Card: Go to <https://www.osvhub.com/stapostle/funds/2021-lenten-project-unlocking-communities-africa>
Be aware that a credit card processing charge of 3.4% will be deducted from your donation.

10 Ways to Fight Hate Reintroduced

During the Season of Lent, St. Thomas will reintroduce the flyers “10 Ways to Fight Hate” as part of the parish focus on Racial Justice. The flyers were originally provided in 2018–2019 and were a collaborative effort among the St. Thomas Immigration/Refugee Initiative, Pax Christi and Solidarity Coalition ministries. Each flyer provides information, scripture, song, Catholic Social Teaching and suggestions to put each of the “10 Ways” into action.



The second weekend in Lent, February 27–28, highlight “Support the Victims” and “Speak Up.” Listen with a compassionate heart and an open mind. Recognize the need to be vigilant and empathetic. Be a friend to someone targeted by a bully. Support accurate and thoughtful reporting and speak up with confidence. Before posting or sharing on social media, ask yourself: “Is it true? Is it kind?”

To read the flyers, click [here](#).

Unexpected Food Donation

Recently, the OSJ Office received a call from a Boy Scout at the Ismaili Center at LaSalle and Bond Streets in Naperville. The scouts from Troop 4786 did a food drive — their first since the pandemic — and were looking for a place to donate the food. Amsal, one of the scouts, called St. Thomas as we are close by and have a food pantry. We were the grateful recipients of the food!

Amsal brought over 215 items of food. Scouts from 6th grade through senior year of high school participated in the drive. Amsal, who is very close to attaining his rank of Eagle Scout, indicated they are interested in collaborating with us again.

Below is a brief description of the Ismaili community from the center’s website.

“The Ismaili Muslims are a culturally diverse community living in over 25 countries around the world. They adhere to a 1,400 year tradition of Shi’a values that are expressed through a commitment to a search for knowledge for the betterment of self and society; embracing pluralism by building bridges of peace and understanding; and generously sharing of one’s time, talents and material resources to improve the quality of life of the community and those among whom they live.”

Pro-Life Ministry

Action Needed

“The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred . . . We believe that every person is precious.”

~US Conference of Catholic Bishops

The Illinois legislature is considering a bill that will usurp the rights of Illinois parents, put the health of minor girls at risk, end the lives of countless unborn children and protect human traffickers and sexual predators. HB 1797 would repeal Illinois’ last remaining pro-life law: The Parental Notification of Abortion Act (PNA).

The current PNA simply requires that parents be notified when their minor daughter plans to have an abortion. If there is a compelling reason, such as abuse, why a girl cannot tell her parents, she can receive permission from a judge to have an abortion without the parents being notified. Since this law went into effect in 2013, it resulted in a decrease of 1,000 abortions annually in Illinois.

It is imperative that as pro-life Christians and citizens, we move quickly to show our opposition to HB 1797 and ensure the Parental Notification of Abortion Act stays in place.

Educate yourself on the HB 1797, and if you agree this bill should not be passed, contact your Illinois legislators and ask them to vote “No” on HB 1797.



2021 Lenten Project Unlocking Communities

Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. This year the Lenten project will benefit Unlocking Communities and more specifically, their African initiative. The goal is to raise \$10,000.

Unlocking Communities was founded and is directed by one of our own — Josh Goralski, who grew up at St. Thomas. Unlocking Communities works in poor third world villages. They train people (mostly women) in smaller villages to be entrepreneurs (providing clean water filters and clean burning stoves for families) — providing self-sustaining economic, health and environmental impacts in communities. Stay tuned for more information during Lent.

There are three ways to make a donation:

1. Attend Mass and place a donation envelope clearly marked “Lenten Project” in the basket at the church exit.
2. Checks can be written to “St. Thomas OSJ” with “Lenten Project” in the memo and sent to St. Thomas OSJ – ATTN: MIKE (1500 Brookdale Rd. Naperville, 60563).
3. Credit Card: Click [here](#) to donate. Be aware that a credit card processing charge of 3.4 percent will be deducted from your donation.

Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, March 1

7:00–9:00 pm Buildings and Grounds, Judea

Tuesday, March 2

10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry Food Distribution, Outside

7:00–9:00 pm RE Elementary Catechists, Ministry Center

Wednesday, March 3

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

Thursday, March 4

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

1:45–2:45 pm Stations of the Cross Practice, Church

7:30–9:00 pm Thursday P.M. Bible Study, Zoom

7:00–7:45 pm First Eucharist Prayer Service, Church

Friday, March 5

9:00 am–12:00 pm Adoration/Benediction, Church

7:00–8:00 pm Stations of the Cross, Church

Saturday, March 6

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

3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Galilee

Sunday, March 7

9:00 am–12:00 pm RCIA, Senior Center

9:00–10:00 am Girl Scout Mass, Church

3:00–4:00 pm Middle School Mass, Church

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

February 14, 2021

Sunday Collection Offering* \$7,683

Credit Card Online Giving none this week

Automatic Direct Debit (5th and 20th each month) none this week

Mailed in and stock donations \$5,500

Total for the week \$13,183

*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation

Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30) \$1,165,173

Weekly Average 7/1/2019 to date \$35,308

Offertory Goal Year to date \$1,111,740

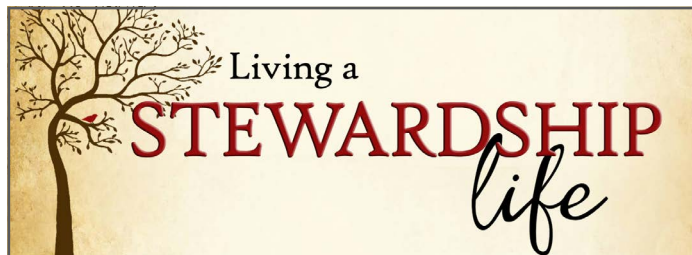
Over/short of goal to date \$53,433

Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30 \$1,751,833

Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal 67%

Remaining for Fiscal Year goal \$586,660

This week, the Sunday collection is \$53,433 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$135 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.



Our stewardship is our decision as to how we live and manage our entire life. What we return to God through the church is only a part of our stewardship. We are given by God the freedom to manage all our time, abilities, and money. That process of management is called stewardship.

(Cloughen, Jr., Rev. Charles, One Minute Stewardship Sermons, 1997, Morehouse Publishing, p. 2-3.)

Lent is a good time to ponder this thought. During Lent we are encouraged to pray, fast, and give alms. Alms giving is not only increasing our gifts to the Diocese (through CMAA), to our parish (through our weekly contributions), or charities, such as Catholic Relief Services. It is also giving freely of our time, by volunteering to a charitable organization or sitting with a friend with a listening ear. It could also mean sharing our talents to help an organization to better serve their clients. If you don't think you have a talent, just ask where they need the help. You would be surprised at what you can do.

Thank you again for all who have volunteered at our Masses. A call was sent out for us to share our time and talents (a friendly greeting, proclaiming the Word, a smile, albeit behind the mask). We managed to share our gifts with others.

Smart Moves in Giving to St. Thomas

Some parishioners receive tax benefits from gifts to St. Thomas by donating stock or directing their IRA distributions to St. Thomas. Consult your tax adviser or broker/agent to see if these smart moves are right for you. We appreciate your support!

thank you

Please take the time to read the ads which make this bulletin possible. Help support these businesses, especially during this time, as they support St. Thomas the Apostle. Mention the bulletin when you patronize their establishments.

Let them know they are appreciated!

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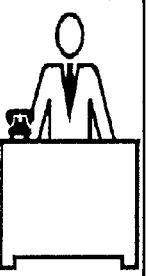
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