

St. Thomas

MARCH 14, 2021 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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–8:30 pm, Monday/Thursday; 9:00 am–7:00 pm, Tuesday/Wednesday; 9:00 am–4:00 pm, Friday; 9:00 am–1:00 pm, Saturday
email to mainoffice@stapostle.org or visit us at 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

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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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Kathy Ferguson, *Gen Office Administrative Asst.*, x100, mainoffice@stapostle.org
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Chris Ridge,* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*
Mary Wright,* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*
Mary Derwinski,* *Administration Asst.*, x143, mderwinski@stapostle.org
Sue Sportiello,* *Financial Asst.*, x143, ssportiello@stapostle.org
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

Rev. 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,

One of my favorite Scripture passages is from the first letter of St. John, chapter 4: 18-19.

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet

perfect in love. We love because God first loved us.”

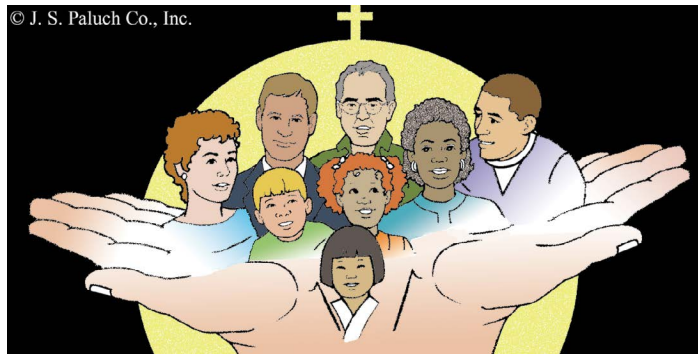
God loved us first, a love which we did not ask for but was freely given to us.

We heard in today’s gospel that “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that everyone...might have eternal life.” Nobody asked God to send His only Son. Jesus was God’s gift to the world.

A beautiful thing about God is that He will never let go of us. A beautiful thing about God’s gift is that, even if we try to refuse it, He continues to offer it to us. God loved us first. God will love us always.

In the Word,

Fr. Danaher



Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14, 2021

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

— John 3:17

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 stapostle.org

Weekend — Must sign up online to attend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am and 10:45 am

All three weekend Masses will also be livestreamed and available to watch on demand at 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

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

Readings for Today

First Reading — The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of the chosen people (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) or Psalm 23.

Second Reading — By grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-10) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel — The Son was sent by God so that the world might be saved through him (John 3:14-21) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Alternate readings (Year A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Prayer

March is Women's History Month

Good and gracious God,

Creator of all in your image and likeness,

We ask your blessing and your grace

for women in our global community for toil and struggle

to bring about a new world of justice and peace.

*We also remember all the women
who are constrained from speaking out.*

*Help us to work for the day
they can live their lives in dignity and freedom.*

*We remember all the women who have been able to give voice
to the call for justice — and who do so today.*

Amen.

Presider Schedule March 20–21

Saturday, March 20

4:30 pm — Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

Sunday, March 21

9:00 am — Fr. Bob Colaresi

10:45 am — Fr. Philip Danaher with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

Presider schedule is subject to change.

New Mass Schedule

The new weekend Mass times are:

Saturday 4:30 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

Sunday 10:45 am

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.

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

Monday, March 15, 2021

8:30 am †Esperance Noronha, by The Noronha Family

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

8:30 am †William Raef, by The Battisto Family

Wednesday, March 17, 2021

8:30 am †Gail Ruhnke

Thursday, March 18, 2021

8:30 pm †Sandra DuDeck, by Peter DuDeck and Susan Woodill

Friday, March 19, 2021

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

Saturday, March 20, 2021

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Gordon Maxson, by Terry Viehl

Sunday, March 21 2021

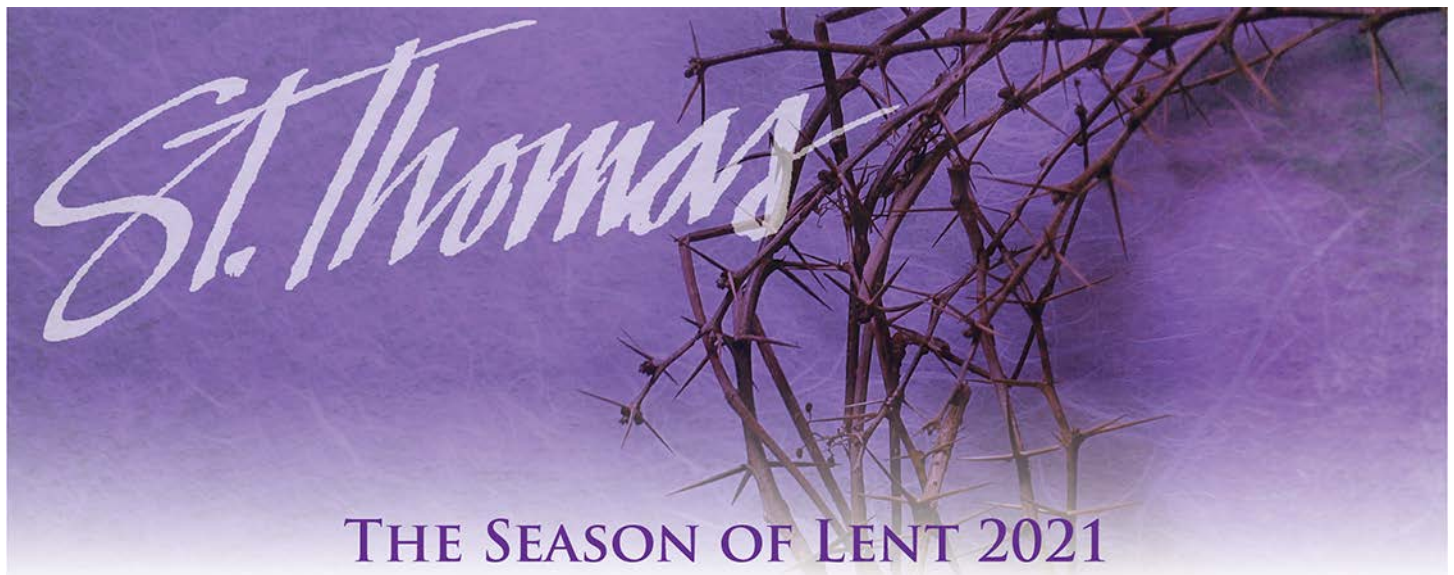
Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am †Mary Bickel, by Karen Currier

†John Vesper, by Mark Vesper

†Jean Vance, by Kate and Jerry Rixie

10:45 am †Margaret and Donald Lipke, by Mary and Neil Orton



Fourth Sunday of Lent: Early and Often

God acts with compassion. With mercy. With grace (and is grace). Early and often and always. What love!

- How will I love like Christ today?
- To whom will I show compassion?
- How will I be gracefully merciful?

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.

Lent Reconciliation

The St. Thomas community will celebrate a Lenten communal reconciliation service Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 7:00 pm. Liturgy of the Word will be followed by the opportunity for individual confession with a priest. *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 from our website at stapostle.org and bring it with you. Maximum occupancy is 125.*

Virtual Lenten Taize

We will have a **VIRTUAL** Lenten Taize service Monday, March 15, 2021 at 7:00 pm. You are invited to light a candle at home as you participate in this service from there. Watch the St. Thomas website (stapostle.org) for the streaming link.

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 from our website at stapostle.org and bring it with you. Maximum occupancy is 125.

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 19

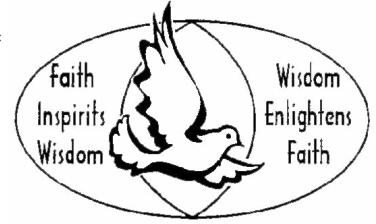
Through the simple, intimate, yet powerful words of *Everyone's Way of the Cross*, those on the journey are invited to grow closer to Christ by embracing the mystery of suffering in the world.

Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

According to Pastor Brian McLaren, we all live in the same world, but we live in different realities. And we “see” the world from the perspective of our own point of view, our own experiences and our own biases. We prefer ideas that confirm what we already think and believe. We prefer ideas that are held by people like us.

We also prefer ideas that fall within our comfort zone. We even prefer simple lies to complex truths. And that’s likely true of most people, in all places, across all times.



The prophet Isaiah (6:9-10) seemed to understand that the people of his time (2,600 years ago) tended to listen, but did not understand. They looked intently, but did not perceive. Their ears were dull and they closed their eyes. He believed that if they could truly “see” and “hear,” then their hearts would understand and they would “turn and be healed.” It might behoove all of us to think about this often with regard to ourselves. If you are looking for a daily examination of conscience, this could be a great question for consideration: to what or to whom do I close my eyes, my ears and my heart so I don’t have to consider a viewpoint that is different from the one I currently hold?

Adult Confirmation Prep

If you are 18 years of age or older and have not yet received the Sacrament of Confirmation, preparation sessions will be starting soon. Adult Confirmation will take place at the Cathedral of St. Raymond in Joliet on both April 18 and May 2.

If you wish to be confirmed, please contact Chari Rosales in the Adult Faith Formation Office at croales@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x138.

You will need to have a copy of your baptismal certificate and the name of your sponsor.

2021 Saints Strong Virtual Celebration (SSVC)

Each day this school year, we have been so thankful for the opportunity to come to school for 5-day in-person instruction. At this point, we have successfully completed more than 70 percent of the 2020-2021 school year, with only two snow days keeping us home.

With the health and safety of our students, faculty and school families always at the forefront of everything that we do at All Saints, ASCA's biggest fundraiser and 'fun'raiser of the year will be a virtual event, our Saints Strong Virtual Celebration, that will take place on Saturday, March 20, 2021, at 6:00 pm.

The All Saints Catholic Academy school community warmly invites you to join us for a fun evening of trivia games and silent auctions and drawings, all supporting the school!

What You Need to Know about the SSVC

When: A two hour virtual event on Saturday, March 20, 2021, beginning at 6:00 pm — from anywhere! You can view the event from the comfort of your own home, or with a small group of family or friends.

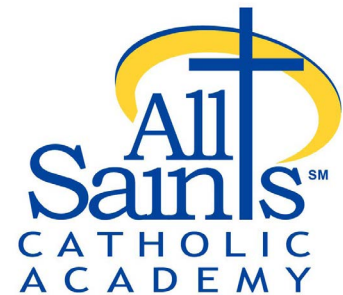
What: The evening will begin with a message from our principal, Mrs. Marshall, followed by Live Trivia, silent auction items, drawings for the Lotto Basket, the Tuition Credit Raffle, and the 50/50 Raffle, and our Call for Cash with proceeds going to build a new STEM Lab at All Saints.

Who: Everyone can attend this year’s auction! School Family? Yes! Friends of an ASCA family? Of course! Parishioners from our supporting parishes? You bet! Children can jump in and play along as well, as individuals, or as a team with their friends. Everyone is looking for something fun to do!

How: Be sure to visit the SSVC homepage by clicking [here](#) for more info, or simply text ASCA21 to 76278 from your mobile phone.

At the website, you will find: information on purchasing a ticket for the virtual trivia night, how to bid, how to purchase a ticket for a staff member, and even how to order a sumptuous meal from My Chef Catering or Aurelio’s to enjoy on the night of the event.

Questions? Contact the team at dda@ascacademy.org. We hope that you can join us!



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

Saint Elizabeth Seton

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



Easter Flower Fund

You are invited to make a donation toward Easter Flowers in recognition of a loved one. The names of these individuals will be on a display board at the Easter Masses. A suggested donation of \$10 per name (exact change or check made payable to St. Thomas the Apostle) should be sent in with the order form. The completed form and payment should be placed in an envelope, to the "Attn of Kathy Ferguson" and can be mailed in, brought in through Door A during the building open hours or placed in the offertory collection basket. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Ferguson at mainoffice@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x100.

Orders must be received by Friday, March 26.

Easter Flower Fund

I would like to make a contribution toward Easter flowers.

In Honor Of:

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

By:

PHONE #

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Please return this form to the church office by Friday, March 26.

Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



St. Thomas the Apostle

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

April First Communion Prayer Service

The April First Communion Prayer Service is “It’s About Making Peace.” The April Prayer Services are Monday, April 12 and Wednesday, April 14 at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP online. Sign-ups are closed 24 hours before the prayer service. If three people are coming, please sign up three times for three seats. Please bring your “My Mass Booklet” to the prayer session.

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.

Family Stations of the Cross

As the weather turns nicer, how about enjoying the outside in a prayerful way this Lent? Families are invited to walk the Stations of the Cross outside this year. A prayer guide is available to borrow, leading your family through each station, with a leader and youth response. The walk will take about 15-20 minutes. Please contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109, to borrow guides and arrange a time to walk the stations. The stations start at the back of the parking lot where outside RE classes began in the fall and end near the outdoor labyrinth. It is a nice place to pray and walk.



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

Important Dates for Elementary RE

Saturday

March 20 – RE Classes meet (last class)

Tuesday

March 16 – RE Classes meet

March 23 – RE Classes meet (last class)

Question of the week ...

What helps you make good
loving choices?



Living Stations 2021

St. Thomas middle school youth are continuing the tradition of providing a meaningful Good Friday prayer experience with Good Friday Living Stations. This year, the music, prayers and enacting each of the Stations will be filmed and woven together into a beautiful prayer experience. Good Friday Living Stations will then be available online. We hope that you will take the time to pray and remember with us.

a big
shout
OUT!

A BIG shout out goes to all of those who made the March 7 Mass for middle school families a wonderful celebration ...

- The middle school students who volunteered to serve as lectors and commentators: Jacob Lee, James Reitmann, Allison Zielke and Maggie Pepiot.
- Fr. Bill Etheredge for agreeing to preside at liturgy and for an amazing proclamation of the Gospel.
- Jim Clauer and Samantha Delke for the music and help with the liturgy details.
- Casey Braun for the online signup.
- The greeters, ushers, Eucharistic ministers and the sacristan who made being able to gather and celebrate possible.
- The middle school catechists for sharing their faith and the example of their life.
- Middle school families for hanging in this most unusual year.
- All of those who prayerfully support middle school faith formation by praying with us and for us.

Thanks for helping us to pray and praise!



Teens with Character

Middle school students ... Teens with Character will meet on Sunday, March 14, 2021, from 4:30–6:00 pm, at St. Thomas. Bring your face mask and join us. Games, faith sharing, and checking in with each other are all part of the Teens with Character experience. We would love to see you!

Just **5** Days

Just5Days Update

The Center for Ministry Development, which organizes Just5Days, announced that the Just5Days mission trip experiences are canceled for this summer. Safety was their primary concern as they made the difficult decision to do this. This is such an impactful week for the middle school students who attend and the group that had expressed an interest in attending this year would have represented St. Thomas so very well.

Many thanks to our middle school students for saying yes and to the St. Thomas faith community for your past support of the Just5Days experience and our middle school attendees with your prayers and affirmation.

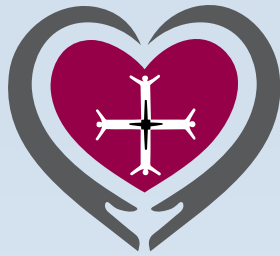
Other opportunities for middle school group service are being explored. Continue to watch the bulletin and website for updated information.

Important Dates for Middle School Religious Education

March 15, 22 — Monday middle school RE classes meet

March 20 — Saturday middle school RE classes meet

Service Commission — Pastoral Care



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

Save the Date: Upcoming Wellspring Event

We invite you to a Wellspring Zoom Event on Monday, April 12, 2021.

Wellspring

How to Live Hopefully in a Culture of Anxiety

- Presented by Dr. Lauren Friedrich from SamaraCare Counseling
- This event is from 7:00–8:00 pm with time for questions and answers
- To register contact Chari Rosales croales@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x138

"Comfort, give comfort to my people says your God." Isaiah 40:1



Safety Foremost for Prayer Shawls and Prayer Squares

If you or your loved one needs a prayer shawl or prayer square, and can wait for safety measures in place before receiving the spiritual gifting, please call Diane McQueen 630.355.8980, x101 in the General Offices (Monday-Friday) and leave your name, phone number and the name of the recipient.

You will receive a call back within two days or earlier to receive a shawl or square.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

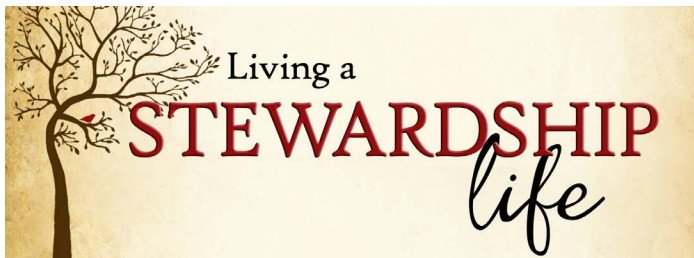


Stay Connected to St. Thomas

stapostle.org

Follow St. Thomas on Facebook

Download the St. Thomas App for your phone



Obstacles to Stewardship as a Way of Life

- Fear that if we share our time, we won't have enough to do what we want to do.
- Fear that if we give our money away, we won't have enough to buy what we want for our loved ones and ourselves.
- Fear that if we offer our talents, they won't be good enough to meet our expectations.
- Fear that if we love without strings, we won't receive enough love in return, etc.

Our consumer-driven society tells us we will never have "enough" — that we will always have to buy more, do more, be more.

Christian Stewardship is counter-cultural. It has been called the "antidote to materialism." We Christians believe that God gave each of us "enough." That is, exactly what we need to fulfill the plan he has for us.

Collectively too, we know we have been given "enough" if we share with one another! No matter how small or limited our gifts seem, if we share them generously God will make what we offer "enough," just as Jesus did when he took the few loaves and fishes and made it "enough" to feed the multitudes!

Stewardship is a call to discern our wants from our needs, a call to simplicity, a call to prioritize our lives so we spend our precious time and resources on what is truly important. Stewardship is our faith lived out in our daily lives. We must have faith that God will always provide what we need and faith that we can live a disciple's life as he calls us and faith that when we fail because of our human weaknesses, still he will be there to provide comfort, to lift us up and help us to try again.

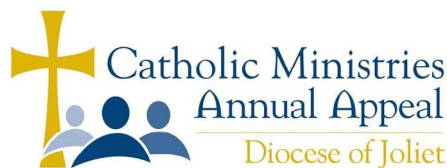
www.dioceseofhelen.org/offices-and-ministries/stewardship, March 8, 2021

See How Your Gift to the CMAA Helps Our Ministries

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

To witness how gifts to the CMAA help our ministries, view a one-minute vignette about the Catholic Schools Office by clicking [here](#). Testimonials from Dr. Michael Boyle, Superintendent, and Mrs. Barnes, a parent, share how thankful they are for all the CMAA does to help children in our Catholic Schools.

If you have yet to make your gift, please prayerfully reflect on how you can best support the CMAA. Please return your pledge card in the mail or make a secure gift online at jolietdioceseappeal.org or text DONATE to 815.205.1949.



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. Click [here](#) to sign up.

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



Waterleaf Miracle of the Month

When Amber first arrived at Waterleaf, she stated that she was looking for an abortion. A college student, with two part-time jobs and living at home with her parents, she felt she could not afford to have a child at this time. The baby's father, Don, told her that if she wanted to keep the baby, he would be there for her.

During her initial ultrasound, Amber cried when they saw the baby. She said, "I might have to change my mind and not do the abortion after seeing that." At a follow-up visit, Amber and Don both seemed awed at the sight of the baby during the subsequent ultrasound. She told the staff she had changed her mind and "we have decided to go through with the pregnancy."

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

Sonographers Needed

As the above story indicates, ultrasounds save lives at Waterleaf. In 2020, the number of sonograms performed increased by 52 percent to the current level of more than 100 every month! With two machines in two beautiful ultrasound rooms, they can do more, but they need more sonographers! Waterleaf provides a competitive hourly wage, extensive training and a beautiful and friendly work environment. Contact Julie Garofalo at julieg@waterleafwc.org or by calling 630.701.6270.



Stations of the Cross: Overcoming Racism

This Stations of the Cross resource on overcoming racism, provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), can help you, your family and your friends reflect on the bishops' pastoral letter against racism, *Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love*. A rich Lenten reflection, this prayer resource can help open our hearts to the persistent nature of racism and the call to help overcome it.

The USCCB writes: "People in our day suffer unjustly simply because of the color of their skin or their national origin. Let us acknowledge the sin of racism and work to combat it in our social structures, our institutions and our hearts." Each of the 14 Stations of the Cross reflects on racism as a rejection of the full humanity of the children of God.

The complete text of the stations is available on the St. Thomas website home page. To read the bishops' letter, click [here](#).

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 fourth weekend in Lent, March 13–14-highlights "Pressure Leaders" and "Stay Engaged." Healthy communities need leaders who are willing so speak out against hate and bias. Healthy communities need participation. Do you plan to vote in the local election on April 6? Healthy communities need thoughtful and courageous action. Choose a small step toward building a community of acceptance.

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



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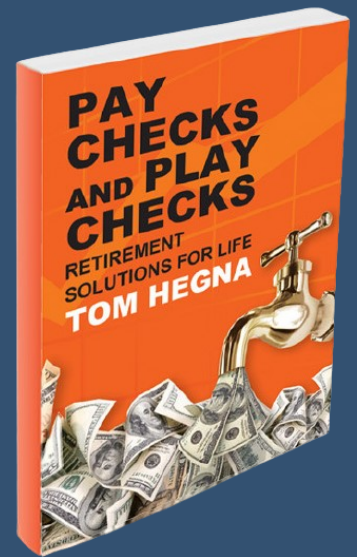
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Feed My Starving Children Thank You

Every year, St. Thomas participates in the Naperville-wide “Feed the Need” FMSC food packing event. This year the event had to be canceled due to the pandemic. St. Thomas Cares provided a small grant to FMSC to help them continue their good work.

Dear St Thomas the Apostle Church,

You are such a blessing. Your gift of \$2,200 to Feed My Starving Children is providing 9,166 MannaPack™ meals to those around the world who need it most. Every gift matters to a hungry child. You're saving lives. You're providing hope. Thank you.

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat ...” Matthew 25:35

May God bless you, Mark Crea (Executive Director/CEO)



Hesed House PADS Update St. Thomas Is Still Serving

The St. Thomas Hesed House PADS Ministry has continued to feed the homeless on the first Thursday of each month ... albeit in a different fashion. Ministry volunteers spend hours on Wednesday in the St. Thomas kitchen preparing and cooking the breakfast for 200. They return on Thursday to prepare the dinner for 200. The lunches are prepared at the home of a volunteer.



The staff at Hesed House is doing a tremendous job keeping the homeless fed, healthy and off the streets. There is an enormous tent in the parking lot where all meals are served and people can stay during the day. Individual tables are all social distanced. The newly constructed men's shelter in the 680 warehouse is up and running. At night, the men sleep in the new shelter, and the women sleep in the traditional or main shelter on the hill at 659, which allows for social distancing for all. Families are being housed off site. The family shelter is used for anyone who becomes ill.

April 6 Election Do Your Homework

Yes, there is another election coming up soon. Catholic Social Teaching calls us to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all. So do your homework and vote.

St. Thomas is participating in a Naperville Interfaith Candidate Interview Action. All 11 of the candidates for Naperville City Council have agreed to meet individually (via Zoom) with a team of four people representing different Naperville faith communities. Prior to the meeting, the candidates are given three topics that will be discussed, including a number of “Yes/No” questions for each topic. The candidate is asked to respond “Yes” or “No” to each question. In addition, the candidates are permitted to provide one paragraph (of 100 words or less) on each topic.

The three topics are: Criminal Justice Reform, Affordable Housing and Human Rights/Fair Housing.

The answers to the “Yes/No” questions and any paragraphs provided by the candidates will be compiled and reported to all faith communities in Naperville and any other interested institutions. No candidates will be endorsed. For St. Thomas, the results will be available on the St. Thomas website by Sunday, March 21.

Do your homework and vote on April 6.



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: 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 percent will be deducted from your donation.

Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, March 15

7:00–9:00 pm Journey I, Youth Center
7:00–9:00 pm Finance Committee, Zoom Meeting
7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE, Ministry Center

Tuesday, March 16

10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry Food Distribution, Outside
7:00–9:00 pm RE at St. Thomas, Ministry Center
7:00–9:00 pm Insight, Zoom Meeting
7:00–9:00 pm PPC, Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, March 17

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

Thursday, March 18

9:15–11:15 am Thursday AM Bible Study, Senior Center
1:45–2:45 pm Living Stations Practice, Church
7:00–9:00 pm Baptism Meeting, Zoom Meeting
7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Zoom

Friday, March 19

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

Saturday, March 20

8:30–11:45 am RE at All Saints Academy
1:00–3:00 pm First Reconciliation, Church
3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Galilee

Sunday, March 21

9:00 am–12:00 pm RCIA, Senior Center

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

February 28, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$11,902
Credit Card Online Giving	\$18,482
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$3,691
Total for the week	\$34,075
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$1,245,344
Weekly Average 7/1/2019 to date	\$35,581
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$1,179,119
Over/short of goal to date	\$66,225
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,751,833
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	71%
Remaining for Fiscal Year goal	\$506,489

This week, the Sunday collection is \$66,225 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$215 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

Help Wanted

Please see the St. Thomas website (stapostle.org) for complete descriptions of the job opportunities within the Diocese of Joliet listed below.

Parish Faith Formation Director Position — St. Michael Parish, Wheaton, Illinois

Director of Faith Formation — St. Irene Parish, Warrenville, Illinois

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!

Checked These Listings Lately? Thank You to Our Advertisers!

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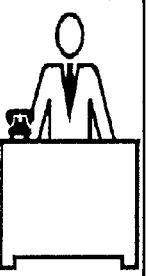
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