

# St. Thomas

SEPTEMBER 5, 2021 — TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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**HE MAKES THE DEAF  
HEAR**

# 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–7:00 pm, Monday–Thursday; 9:00 am–12:00 pm, Friday; 9:00 am–1:00 pm, Saturday

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

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

## Parish Staff

### Priests in Residence

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

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

### Priests Assisting on Weekends

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

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

### Permanent Deacons

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

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

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

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

### Liturgy and Music

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

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

### Faith Formation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Outreach and Social Justice

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

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

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

### Pastoral Care

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

Jan Olah, *Director of Pastoral Care*, x124

### Administration

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chris Ridge,\* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

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

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

Mary Wright,\* *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

### Parish Pastoral Council

Susan Wood O'Leary, *Chair*

Alison Ohl

Noble Charles

Brittany Tres

Dave Johanneson

### Commission Representatives

Carrie Wujek, *Faith & Spiritual Formation*

Linda Bailey, *Service*

Susan Wood O'Leary, *Finance*

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. Augusta Diana, Coordinator of Ministers of Care, 630.355.8980, x140 or Jan Olah 630.355.8980, x124.

**Baptism:** Baptisms are usually celebrated two Sundays each month at a 1:00 pm service. Three times a year on selected dates, Baptisms are celebrated during weekend Masses. Parents are required to attend a Baptismal awareness and renewal session prior to the Baptism. Call or email Maureen Januszewski 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 gospel story of Jesus healing a deaf man would not have happened had it not been for those who brought him to Jesus. It was because of their faith in Jesus and their love for the deaf man that he was healed. Something like this happened earlier in Jesus' public ministry when He healed a paralyzed man who had been brought to

Him by four men carrying the paralyzed man on a mat. Had it not been for the concern of others, and their faith, an opportunity for Jesus to heal would have been missed.

When you think about it, it is a compliment to us that there are times when our all-powerful God depends on us for others to see His love. God is not the One who contributes His time to homeless shelters. God is not the One who participates in clothing and food drives. God is not the One who sends a comforting message to the sick or bereaved. It is because of us acting on God's behalf, being His prophets, His spokespersons, that He has an opportunity to offer comfort and strength to His holy people.

And even when those we helped do not personally thank us, let us never forget that God deeply appreciates our help to show His love to the world.

In the Word,

*Fr. Danaher*

## An Update from Deacon Larry

*Dear Parishioners of St. Thomas,*

*Many have been wondering about my extended absence from St. Thomas. I have a diffuse large B-cell, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. The prognosis is very good. However I will need to undergo an extended regimen of chemotherapy, which will extend into early next year. With COVID -9 and its variants, I have to be especially careful about any infection. Fatigue will increase and my immune system will likely decrease as I progress through the treatments; hence my absence from St. Thomas.*

*I truly appreciate all of your prayers and heart-felt messages. It is important to point out that God did not do this to me. God is LOVE and love is incapable of doing harm. I consider this cancer a gift for me enter, to some degree, into the passion of our Lord. I pray that it will draw me even closer to my Savior and help me to become a better man, husband, father and deacon.*

*Peace, Shalom, Salaam.*

*Deacon Larry Kearney*

## Liturgy Schedule

### Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday–Saturday

### Weekend (Please note change to Mass schedule as of next weekend)

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am and 10:45 am (Starting next weekend, times are: 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:15 am)

The Saturday 4:30 pm Mass will be livestreamed with an outdoor communion option.

## 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 Reconciliation Room. Please check the website for full details.

## Presider Schedule September 11–12

### Saturday, September 11

4:30 pm: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

### Sunday, September 12

8:00 am: Fr. Bob Colaresi with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

9:30 am: Fr. Philip Danaher

11:15 am: Fr. Matt Lorenz with Deacon Jim Breen

Presider schedule is subject to change.

## 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!

## Welcome New Parishioners!

Don and Kathy Fisher

Amy and Jon Fleishman and family

Vanessa Lemes and family

Brennan and Ashley Nagle

Joe and Lynn Silvia and family

William and Susan Swedler

### Would you like to become a parishioner?

Call Maureen Januszewski in the General Office at 630.355.8980, x100.

## Calling All Men!

Would you be interested in learning more about membership in our St. Thomas Knights of Columbus council? For an introduction, contact David Yelaska at [cseaaskme@gmail.com](mailto:cseaaskme@gmail.com)

## Church Office Hours

Please note the office hours effective September 6.

9:00 am–8:00 pm Monday–Thursday

9:00 am–4:00 pm Friday

9:00 am–1:00 pm Saturday

Schedule subject to change. You can call to check on times before coming. Please enter through Door A.

# Worship Commission — Liturgy and Music



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## Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 5, 2021

*Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs to the kingdom?*

— James 2:5

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God (Isaiah 35:4-7a).

**Psalm** — Praise the Lord, my soul! (Psalm 146).

**Second Reading** — Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ (James 2:1-5).

**Gospel** — Jesus makes the deaf hear and the mute speak (Mark 7:31-37).

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:** Col 1:24 — 2:3; Ps 62:6-7, 9; Lk 6:6-11, or, for Labor Day, any readings from the Mass "For the Blessing of Human Labor," nos. 907-911

**Tuesday:** Col 2:6-15; Ps 145:1b-2, 8-11; Lk 6:12-19

**Wednesday:** Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30; Ps 13:6  
Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 [18-23]

**Thursday:** Col 3:12-17; Ps 150:1b-6; Lk 6:27-38

**Friday:** 1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14; Ps 16:1b-2a, 5, 7-8, 11; Lk 6:39-42

**Saturday:** 1 Tm 1:15-17; Ps 113:1b-7; Lk 6:43-49

**Sunday:** Is 50:5-9a; Ps 116:1-6, 8-9; Jas 2:14-18; Mk 8:27-35

## Change to Mass Schedule Starts Next Weekend

Starting next weekend, September 11-12, St. Thomas will return to its old Sunday morning Mass schedule: 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:15 am. The Saturday 4:30 pm Mass will continue as well, but the Sunday, 6:00 pm Mass will not be returning at this time.

## Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

*Please note, all the weekend intentions will be read at all Masses.*

### Monday, September 6, 2021

8:30 am For the Work Force to Strengthen and Grow to Contribute to a Healthy Economy

### Tuesday, September 7, 2021

8:30 am †Benjamin and Julia Mallorca, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

### Wednesday, September 8, 2021

*The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

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

### Thursday, September 9, 2021

*USA: Saint Peter Claver, Priest*

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

### Friday, September 10, 2021

8:30 am For All Victims of the Latest Hurricanes and Earthquakes

### Saturday, September 11, 2021

8:30 am †Jo Kuffner, by Gene Foley

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Jim Wolff, by MaryAnn

†Jo Kuffner, by Gene Foley

### Sunday, September 12, 2021

*Twenty-Fourth Sunday Ordinary*

8:00 am †David Nowlan, by Ken and Maxine Wiejaczka

9:30 am †John Egermann

Special Intention for Mike Malek for Healing, by Ann Mitchell

11:15 am For the Anniversary of 9/11 Victims and their Families

## Wanted: Altar Servers!

Youth from grade 4 on up are welcome and encouraged to serve at the altar of Jesus.

### Training is provided:

Sunday, September 5 12:00–1:00 pm

Tuesday, September 7 4:30–5:30 pm

Saturday, September 11 3:00–4:00 pm

Meet in Church for training. Please RSVP to: [sdelke@stapostle.org](mailto:sdelke@stapostle.org)

## Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Reflecting on God's Word

For three hundred years poor people and slaves were willing to risk death to become Christians, because Jesus offered hope and life. After the ban on Christianity was lifted, the church expanded freely, gradually acquiring wealth and property and converting the wealthy and powerful. According to today's second reading, we should be embarrassed that we still tend to treat rich and powerful people differently than the poor and lowly. Could we really ask significant people in the Church or society to take their chances finding a seat at Mass like everyone else? Today's second reading suggests we should. In many parishes differences of class and income already take second place to the greater purpose for which people gather — to worship God. Our Sunday parish Masses are where richness in faith rather than earthly status gives each person their worth and dignity.

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### Prayer in Honor of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9-11-2001

*Lord of Mercy, Prince of Peace,*

***This date, 9-11, carries a heavy burden of memory.***

*This day does not pass in the calendar without our remembering.*

*We remember images of death and destruction. Images that human eyes were never meant to see.*

*We remember words our ears were never meant to hear,  
the tender last words of husbands and wives who would never embrace again.*

*We imagine the feeling of emptiness in the arms of children  
who at the end of the day could not find mom or dad for their welcome home hug.*

*We remember our own feelings of emptiness as our sense of security,  
as our own confidence in the predictable order of life and work was radically shaken.*

***This date, 9-11, carries a heavy burden of memory.***

*We remember the heroism of the many that lost their lives in saving others.*

*We remember all those who suffered and died, we grieve for them still,  
friends and strangers alike, along with their families and friends.*

***This date, 9-11, carries a heavy burden of memory.***

*And it is right that it should not pass from our memory.*

*But today and in this prayer, along with our remembrance of profound loss,  
it also seems right that we give voice to our deep longing for peace, and with this prayer,  
commit ourselves to those actions that will draw us closer to our most ancient and most holy desire,*

*peace among all God's children.*

***Dona nobis pacem.***

*Lord, grant us peace. Amen.*

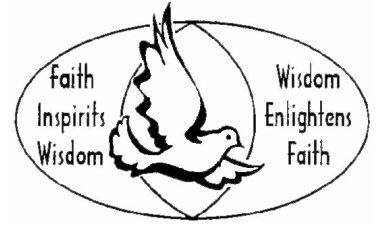
Old St. Patrick's Church

# Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

## C.A.R.E. CORNER

According to Fr. Reginald Garrigou-LaGrange, a Dominican spiritual writer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, “The greatest proof of love is the perfect gift of self.” As Christians, we understand this concept. After all, it was Jesus who offered to the world the perfect gift of Self. He broke himself open and poured himself out for us. As

disciples of Jesus Christ, we are always invited, but also expected to do the same. Then the fruits of the Holy Spirit will be manifest in our lives, which in turn can be made manifest in the world. And according to St. Paul, the fruits of the spirit include “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (See Galatians 5:22-23). And doesn't that describe the kind of world we all want to live in?



St. Paul seemed to know that virtues like love and peace and kindness are divine virtues. The prayer we have been praying all spring and summer, written by the St. Thomas Racial Justice Initiative, suggests peace and solidarity and justice only happen with God's grace. If we humans were independently capable of creating peace and being just and standing in solidarity, we would already be doing that and the state of the world would reflect it. Obviously, we are not capable of doing that on our own accord. We need God's divine power and spirit to accomplish those things on behalf of ourselves and one another. As the prophet Jeremiah wrote many centuries ago (Jeremiah 9:23), “I, the LORD, bring about kindness, justice and uprightness on the earth; For with such am I pleased, says the LORD.”

## Sophia's Circle Welcomes You

Feeling a bit disconnected from your faith? Has your practice become routine rather than rejuvenating?

Come for a refresher in “**Seeing God in All Things**” — **Sharing Our God Stories**, the newest micro-retreat for women from Sophia's Circle at 7:00 pm on Friday, September 17. The Bible is full of stories of God's presence among his people. When we take the time to see God in all things, we become more aware of his presence in our daily lives. Sharing our stories helps to build our own faith and the faith of those around us. We'll delve into some “God stories” from the Bible and share some of our own ‘God moments.’ If you like, you can bring an object or image that reminds you of God's presence.



Our presenter will be Denine Chambers, coordinator of the Service and Outreach Commission at St. Anne Church in Oswego. Involved in ministry for over 30 years, Denine is a certified Spiritual Director and was the co-leader of Harbor of Hope, a ministry of retreats and reflections. An avid writer, she has kept an “I Spy” journal for many years, a great way to remember all the times of ‘spying’ God in her life.

To assure your seat, please register by September 15 with Chari Rosales at [croales@stapostle.org](mailto:croales@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x138. Walk-ins are also welcome. All current safety protocols will be observed. Fee to attend is \$10. Come, relax into God's presence and enjoy the company of women.

## The Creed — WHAT We Believe and WHY

On Monday, September 13 at 7:00 pm, join Chari Rosales, Director of Adult Faith Formation, on Zoom to delve deeply into the Nicene Creed, the essential expression of our Catholic faith. Why is it so important and why should it matter to us? In this COVID era, many are questioning the need to believe in anything at all. Why is “I believe” at the heart of our faith? Join in to explore, interact and pray with the Creed!

To receive the Zoom link, contact Chari Rosales at [croales@stapostle.org](mailto:croales@stapostle.org).

Fine Art & Craft



St. Thomas the Apostle  
November 13-14, 2021

## Calling all artists!

St. Thomas will host the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arts & Craft Fair on November 13–14! We have space for artists who want to display and sell their craft and to date have registered artists working in photography, handmade jewelry, painting, leather art, quilting, Christmas ornaments — and so much more!! The due date for registration is October 1. There is no entry fee, but 20 percent of the total amount sold will be donated to our partner parish St. Nicholas Church in Aurora. This is a fun event for artists to share their talent and a great way to do some early holiday shopping.

For entry forms or questions, please contact Donna Ryder at [dryder27@gmail.com](mailto:dryder27@gmail.com) or 937.974.4363.



## News from All Saints Catholic Academy

### Our Saints are Shining Bright

At our staff retreat prior to the beginning of this school year, we gathered to connect, to reflect, and to celebrate Mass together. We listened to the following Scripture from the Gospel of Matthew:

*You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:14-16*

We reflected on how God's light shines on us and through us. He has given us each unique gifts to bring to the world, and he calls us to see His light in each person we encounter.

Our teachers have been sharing this theme in their classrooms and asking the students to reflect on their own light and their own God-given gifts.

In this new school year, there has been a lot of "new" for all of us. New teachers, new classrooms, new friends. Some students thrive in new environments, adjust well to change, and show no fear or hesitation when faced with the new or unknown. These are the students who have become that "light" for other students-welcoming them, reassuring them and helping them feel at home. At All Saints, we are family.

For our students who may be a little more hesitant or cautious, who struggle with the "new," or who may be feeling overwhelmed during these first few weeks, we remind and assure them of God's light in them and the gifts they bring to our school community each day.

At All Saints, we all can be the light the world needs, shining bright in our own way.

**All Are Welcome at All Saints!**



# Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



St. Thomas the Apostle

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Not Too Late to Register for RE

There is still time to register for elementary and middle school religious education sessions. Registration materials for the 2021-2022 RE year are available on the St. Thomas website and in the Gathering Area. Completed registration forms can be dropped off at St. Thomas. The office is open from 9:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Thursday; from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Friday; and from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Saturday. Our hope is that those families who, for health reasons, could not attend RE this past year will consider being part of our RE program this coming year. Don't delay ... classes begin in mid-September!

### Parents and Catechists ... Important Dates for Religious Education

- Saturday, September 11, Elementary and Middle School Saturday RE sessions begin at All Saints
- Monday, September 13, Middle School Monday RE sessions begin at All Saints
- Tuesday, September 21, Elementary Tuesday RE sessions begin at Brookdale School

*For a listing of all religious education dates for the year, please see St. Thomas website (stapostle.org) under the Education tab and then select Elementary or Middle School Religious Education.*

### Elementary RE Aides Needed

Come and join the fun! Aides are needed in many grade levels for Elementary Religious Education classes on Saturday and Tuesday. Won't you share your time helping a catechist in the classroom by being an aide? Classes start Saturday, September 11 and Tuesday September 21. No experience needed. Contact Lorraine Katz to discuss further at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109.

### A Student's Prayer for a New School Year

*Lord Jesus, I ask for Your help as I begin this new school year.*

*Allow me to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before me.*

*Open my eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.*

*Open my heart and mind to new friends and new teachers.*

*Give me a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with my studies and courage to accept new opportunities.*

*Help me to be attentive to my teachers and let me experience Your presence in my new friends.*

*Jesus, inspire me to do my best this year!*

*Amen*

### Question of the week ...

How do we make time to listen to God?



## Rainbows for All Children

Rainbows for All Children ([www.rainbows.org](http://www.rainbows.org)) is an international program that offers children a chance to talk about their loss from divorce to death of a loved one with children their own age who may have had similar experiences. It is a peer support program for children dealing with loss in their lives. It is geared for children grades 1-8 and starts September 9, but children are always accepted throughout the year. It is being offered at St. Raphael's School in Naperville.

Please contact Henrietta Christenson at 630.664.6545 or Lorraine Katz 630.355.8980, x109 or [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org) for more information and to register.



## Be a Part of Harvest Sunday ... Save the Date

Harvest Sunday, an effort by St. Thomas to feed the hungry, will take place the week of October 31 (flyer delivery) and on Sunday, November 7 (food pickup, food collection at Casey's, and sorting). More information, including online volunteer sign-up details, will be available soon.



## Teens with Character Core Team

7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students ... if you would like to take a more active role in Teens with Character, and help to plan and lead the Teens with Character meetings, then join the Teens with Character Core Team. The Core Team meets immediately before each Teens with Character meeting to plan the games, activities, and group discussion for each meeting. During Teens with Character meetings, Core Team members take an active role in welcoming and in leading the meetings. If you are interested in being part of the Core Team, contact Peggy Goralski at [pgoralski@stapostle.org](mailto:pgoralski@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x123.



The 2021-2022 Teens with Character meeting dates are October 10, November 14, December 12, January 9, February 13, March 13. All Teens with Character meetings take place from 4:30-6:00 pm, in the St. Thomas gym. Middle school students and friends are welcome!

## A Shining Star is Leaving the St. Thomas Galaxy

If you were a new parishioner registering in the parish, or someone needing a mass card, or someone who appreciated the efforts taken to ensure the safety of parishioners during our re-opening phase, then you've encountered Kathy Ferguson.

Kathy has worked in the St. Thomas General Office for over 17 years. In her position, she has ministered to so many parishioners, making them feel valued and welcomed. Kathy and her husband will be moving to Houston. We will miss the many ways Kathy let her light shine around St. Thomas.

We will send Kathy and her husband, Bear, off with a blessing at masses the weekend of September 11-12. There will also be a reception for Kathy from 10:30 am-12:30 pm on Sunday, September 12. Please stop by to say thanks to Kathy Ferguson ... one of our brightest stars.

## Young Adult Samuel Group

The Diocese of Joliet is sponsoring the Samuel Group for Young Adults aged 20-35. Samuel Group is a community of like-minded young adults who are striving for holiness and seeking a deeper relationship with God. Over seven months, you'll learn how to deepen your prayer life, discover the rules of discernment by St. Ignatius of Loyola and receive guidance from a spiritual director.

Samuel Group is more than a "discernment group." It is a program designed to help young adults know themselves and how to live in the freedom of a relationship with Jesus Christ and trust in His plan for their lives. Understanding one's vocation first comes from understanding how God is calling each person to live each day in the present moment, free from past wounds and the lies of the world.

The first session begins September 19, 2021. Check out this link for more info: <https://www.dioceseofjoliet.org/yam/sectioncontent.php?secid=22>

# Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Observance of the 9/11 Attacks From Hurt to Healing to Hope: Creating a More Perfect Union

In this time of increasing polarization, we embrace the challenge of creating unity in our nation and amongst faith groups. Unity does not require unanimity. Creating a sense of solidarity does not insist on uniformity. Unity does require empathy, compassion and inclusion. It does require repairing the bonds among us. Especially in times of conflict, unity means that regardless of our differences, we acknowledge our common humanity and strive to respect the dignity of every person. Everyone everywhere is important. Everyone everywhere is included. This is the path to a “More Perfect Union.”

- Sunday, September 12, 2021 Wentz Concert Hall, 171 E Chicago Ave, Naperville, IL 60540
- 2:30 pm — Concert Hall doors open.
- 3:00 pm — The Main Event: Program with music readings and reflections. Masks required, please.
- 4:00 pm — Community Activity: Walk to North Central College campus to plant a tree.

Naperville Interfaith Leaders Association

RELIGIOUS LEADERS COMMITTED TO RESPECT, INTERFAITH DIALOGUE, AND COMPASSION.



## Lakota Blanket and Coat Collection

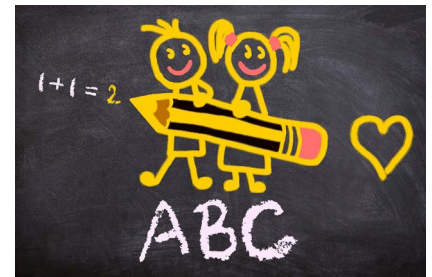
The blanket, sleeping bag and winter coat drive for the Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is back! Now is the time to donate the items you have been holding onto while waiting for this collection to return.

The collection ends on Sunday, September 26. Delivery to St. Agnes, our twinning parish, will be October 1–2. Please place your donations of blankets, sleeping bags and winter coats in the designated bin in the Gathering Area. Thank you!

## School Supplies Thank You

The school supply collection allowed us to distribute supplies to 121 children from the Care Pantry. Funds received for school supplies in prior years enabled us to purchase a \$10 Target card for each child. Due to the generosity of those who donated, we also had supplies to share with St. Nicholas in Aurora. We gave St. Nicholas 25 sets of supplies to distribute to children at their pantry. In addition, we provided thirty sets of binders, colored pencils, and markers to St. Nicholas to use in their religious education program—the School of Faith and Hope.

Thanks to all who were able to donate supplies. A special thanks to the local chapter of the Catholic Order of Foresters (COF). COF ran a school supply drive and provided 5-6 cartloads of supplies, primarily spiral notebooks, loose-leaf paper and many colored pencils. Thanks to the volunteers who sorted and packed the supplies. Please keep all who work in and attend school at any level in your prayers for a safe and fruitful year.



## St. Thomas Prayer Day — Saturday, September 25

A 40 Days for Life prayer vigil will be held at Planned Parenthood beginning September 22 and ending October 31. The Prayer vigil location is Planned Parenthood (3051 E. New York St., Aurora) behind Waterleaf Women’s Center. Parking available at Waterleaf.

All are encouraged to participate any of the 40 days by simply going to the prayer vigil and spending an hour (or part of an hour) in prayer.

St. Thomas prayer day, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, is Saturday, September 25. We would like to have representation throughout the day from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm. You can sign up on the forms in the Narthex and Gathering Area at St. Thomas. There will be an insert in next week’s bulletin with the sign-up form.

You are not required to sign up ... feel welcome to come and pray anytime! Parishioner Robert Hays, from the Knights of Columbus, will be there throughout the day to welcome you.

40 Days for Life is a beautiful opportunity to join others in peaceful prayer and keeping vigil. Through God, lives are changed during 40 Days for Life. When communities rally in this effort, God works miracles. The “no show” rate for abortion appointments increases dramatically while people are praying outside.





## Food Donations for Care Pantry

Bring donations to St. Thomas on **Tuesday, September 7** from 9:00–10:00 am or 6:00–7:00 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.

- Large canned soup
- Toilet paper
- Kleenex
- Cereal
- Canned beans (black, kidney, pinto, etc.)
- Canned vegetables
- Side dishes
- Sugar

Thank you for your support. Consider being a drop off location for people in your neighborhood and bringing a trunk load of food to St. Thomas.

## Retired Flag Collection September 11–12 Weekend

Did you know there is a proper procedure for disposing of old, tattered, torn, soiled and worn American flags? The Knights of Columbus are collecting American flags that are in need of proper disposal the weekend of September 11–12. Collection containers will be in the Narthex and Gathering Area. The Knights will respectfully dispose of them in the proper manner

## Haiti Earthquake Duchity Update

*Due to Bulletin deadlines, this article was written on Monday, August 30 ... 16 days after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake occurred in southwestern Haiti, severely impacting our Twinning community of Duchity.*



Duchity is our Twinning community and has been for 22 years. We continue to work with them and support them in good times and bad. They have proven to be a resilient people. They will perform miracles with all the resources we are able to provide for them. Please continue to embrace them in our thoughts and prayers.

People continue to sleep outside because of destroyed or damaged homes or in fear as after-shocks continue every day. Rain comes and goes. There are continuing needs for medicines and medical supplies, food and tents/tarps. See the St. Thomas home page (stapostle.org) for pictures from Duchity.

### First Report from Clinic

On the day of the earthquake, a medical team led by Dr. Nickson Polyte from our clinic, established a treatment area on the soccer field of Duchity. They saw 250 patients that first day, 85 of them children under age eleven. The majority of the injured were treated on site for various wounds. Ten had pelvic fractures and seven had fractured femurs. These people were evacuated to hospitals in Camp Perrin and Les Cayes. They reported 41 deaths and 20 people missing. At least one mobile clinic visited areas in the Duchity countryside.

### Relief Supplies

The first large truck of relief supplies (medical supplies, food and some tarps for shelter) arrived in Duchity the Friday after the earthquake. St. Thomas (working with Unlocking Communities with people on the ground in Haiti) provided funding for the supplies. A second truck with medical supplies from Partners in Health and with additional medicines, food and tents/tarps provided by St. Thomas is scheduled to travel to Duchity this week. Two other trucks organized by Youth Haiti (a Duchity based organization) have also reached Duchity.

### Community Organization

Dr. Nickson and Dr. Emmanuela are part of the leadership team in the village that is staging the delivered supplies and packaging them for distribution. They have made assessments in the village and in the countryside areas to determine where help is most needed.

### Ertha Orphanage

Ertha's orphanage buildings were more severely damaged than first understood. The walls are still standing, but there are major holes, internal wall collapses and roof damage. They are not habitable and may not be structurally safe. The 20 children are now sleeping in two tents on the orphanage grounds.

### Earthquake Recovery Donations

To date (8/30/21), \$34,800 has been received for Haiti earthquake relief and recovery. Thank you to all that were able to help! One hundred percent of the funds received will be used to directly help our twinning community. The funds will be coordinated through Fr. Emery, the Pastor of Ste. Marie Madeleine, for the benefit of the larger Duchity community. For those still wishing to make a donation:

- Checks can be written to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Haiti Earthquake" in the memo and mailed to: St. Thomas OSJ, 1500 Brookdale Rd., Naperville, IL 60563.
- Online donations can be made from the St. Thomas Website or go directly to <https://www.osvhub.com/stapostle/funds/haiti-earthquake-relief-duchity>. Be aware that a credit card processing charge of 3.4 percent will be deducted from your donation.

# Service Commission — Pastoral Care



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE  
St. Thomas the Apostle

## From the Office of the Parish Nurse Ask the Doctor

### Do people who have COVID-19 go on to develop other diseases?

**Q** – Is it true that people are more likely to develop other diseases after recovering from COVID-19?

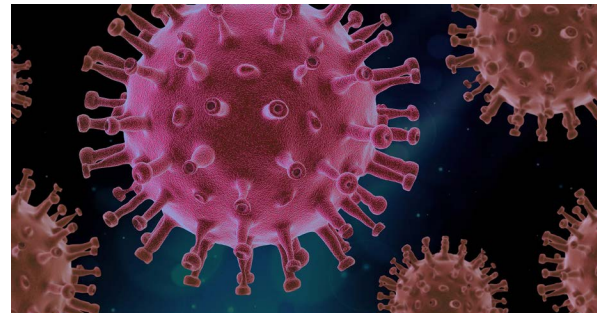
**A** – As we discussed in our January 2021 issue, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 can permanently injure the lungs, heart muscle, kidneys, brain and other organs. In addition, some people (often called “long haulers”) who recover from the worst symptoms of COVID can be left with debilitating fatigue, difficulty thinking and other

symptoms that make it hard to function normally at work or at home.

As if this suffering were not enough, it's becoming clear that people who recover from COVID have an increased risk of developing a variety of other diseases. A study published online April 22, 2021, by the journal *Nature* compared 73,000 U.S. veterans who survived COVID to nearly five million non-hospitalized veterans without COVID, and to another large group with pneumonia caused by influenza.

The two comparison groups were similar to the COVID group in terms of age, sex, race and ethnicity, neighborhood where they lived, past medical history, use of medical services and other measures.

All groups were followed for an average of four months. During that time, people who “recovered” from COVID were more likely to develop new health problems — including heart attacks, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, inflammation of their muscles and blood clots that traveled to their lungs. The risk of dying during the study was 60 percent higher for the COVID patients. Something about the way the body responded to the coronavirus caused people to become more vulnerable to diseases, even after symptoms caused by the virus ended. Although the risk of these diseases was highest in people who'd been sickest with COVID, even those who were mildly ill had an increased risk.



And a British study published online April. 6, 2021, by *The Lancet Psychiatry* compared 236,000 COVID patients to an even larger number of people who experienced other respiratory infections during the same time period and who were otherwise similar. During the six months following “recovery” from COVID, the risks of several brain conditions — strokes from clots or hemorrhages and psychosis — were higher. Each of these conditions can occur while someone is sick with COVID, but it was a surprise to learn that the increased risk persists even after COVID symptoms (pneumonia, fever, loss of the ability to smell and others) have ended.

Bottom line: COVID is even more dangerous for your health that we thought. The available vaccines offer very strong protection. With 150 million people in the United States having been vaccinated already, we can say with confidence that serious side effects are rare. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, you owe it to yourself, your family and friends, and your community to do it.

*Resource: article by Anthony L. Komaroff, M.D. Editor in Chief www.health.harvard.edu*

## PrimeTime

On September 15, Jack Kreger, former co-chair of Prime Time, Board Chair of AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois, and Maria Fronczak, CEO, will share information on who AgeGuide supports, the home and community-based services they offer and statewide aging services initiatives they support in our area. We will also learn what we can do to support aging services for adults and their caregivers in Naperville and the eight counties AgeGuide supports. Don't miss this presentation. You may well learn something that will change your life or the life of someone you love.



AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois is one of 622 Area agencies on Aging throughout the United States and one of 13 in Illinois. Created by Congress to implement the Older Americans Act, Area Agencies on Aging coordinate a wide variety of services for persons age 60 and older. In 1974, the Illinois Department on Aging designated AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois as the Area Agency on Aging for DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties. Over 700,000 older adults live in our agency's eight-county service area.

AgeGuide is a non-profit organization that works closely with the Administration on Community Living, Illinois Department on Aging and many other agencies to address both the immediate and long range needs of older adults. AgeGuide then monitors these services throughout our region to ensure they are of high quality and the funds are spent appropriately.

*Resource for AgeGuide is AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois – Senior Lifestyle Expo 2021*

From the Behavioral Health Ministry  
**Comfort My People  
A Prayer Service for Healing**

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."  
Matthew 11:28*

**Wednesday, September 15, 2021  
7:00 pm at St. Thomas the Apostle**

*The Church honors Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows*

The Comfort My People Prayer Service is for anyone looking for hope and healing amid struggles in mind, body or spirit. Be reminded to hope in God and never lose sight of God's constant presence and love. Come to find consolation and peace within a loving community.



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
St. Thomas the Apostle

From the Office of the Parish Nurse  
**We are BACK! Safe and Socially Distanced**

Blood Pressure Screening is available after the 9:30 am and 11:15 am Sunday Masses next weekend, Sunday, September 12.

The screening sites are; the first office on the right (Deacon's office) and the second office on the right (Parish Nurse office) as you enter the WEST WING of the Church.

No appointment or doctor's order needed.



**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE**  
St. Thomas the Apostle

**Attention Caregivers!**

All caregivers, relatives and friends of those who struggle with anxiety, depression, bipolar, eating disorder or self-injury, please join us for an evening of prayer, discussion and reflection. Meetings are held at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 2220 Lisson Rd. Naperville. Please email [welisten2017@gmail.com](mailto:welisten2017@gmail.com) or call Joe at 630.596.1635 with any questions. The upcoming meetings are as follows:

- September 9, 23
- October 14, 28

**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

*joy*

**Joy is the proof of  
God's Presence**

(Teilhard de Chardin)

*"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*

# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, September 6

Labor Day  
Building closed after 8:30 am Mass

### Tuesday, September 7

9:00–10:00 am Care Pantry Drive Thru Donations  
4:30–5:30 pm Altar Server Training, Church  
6:00–7:00 pm Care Pantry Drive Thru Donations  
7:00–9:00 pm Buildings and Grounds, Juda

### Wednesday, September 8

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center  
7:00–9:00 pm Baptism Meeting, Cana  
7:00–8:30 pm Confirmation Catechist Meeting, Lighthouse  
7:15–8:45 pm Faith Formation Commission, Senior Center

### Thursday, September 9

9:15–11:15 am Thursday AM Bible Study, Senior Center  
6:30–8:30 pm Life Retreat Planning, Ministry Center  
7:30–9:30 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

### Friday, September 10

5:00–9:00 pm Couriers of Compassion, Lighthouse

### Saturday, September 11

8:30–9:45 am Middle School RE at All Saints Academy  
8:30–11:45 am Elementary School RE at All Saints Academy  
9:00 am–3:00 pm Mental Health First Aid Training, Lighthouse  
9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Cana  
3:00–4:00 pm Altar Server Training, Church  
3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Reconciliation Room

### Sunday, September 12

10:30 am–1:00 pm Blood Pressure Screening, West Wing  
1:00–2:00 pm Baptism, Church

## Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

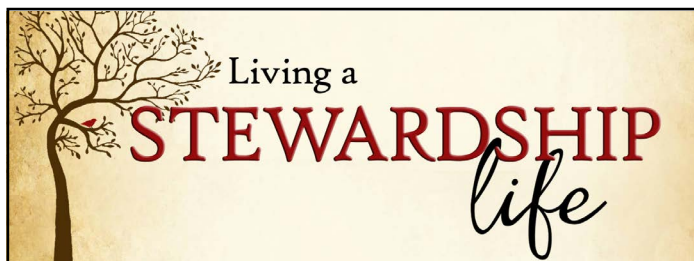
### Weekly Sunday Offertory

August 22, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$10,039
Credit Card Online Giving	reported monthly
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	\$25,737
Mailed in and stock donations	\$16,296
Total for the week	\$52,073
<small>*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation</small>	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$290,741
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$36,343
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$268,556
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$22,185
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	17%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$1,454,859

This week, the Sunday collection is \$22,185 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$307 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

### Diocesan Appeal 2021

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,100
Pledges Received	\$146,060
Percent of Goal pledged to date	83.89%
Unpaid pledges	\$7,580
Paid to Date	\$138,480
Percent of goal paid to date	79.54%



The second reading for last Sunday's Mass was taken from the Letter of Saint James. It read, in part:

*All good giving and every perfect gift is from above ...  
and later it reads:*

*Be doers of the word and not hearers only...*

There are many opportunities to be "doers of the word" with the gifts you receive from above. Take a look on our website or in our bulletin for things to use your gifts of time, talent or treasure for the good of 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!**

**Checked These Listings Lately? Thank You to Our Advertisers!**

Make it a habit to check these advertisers when you need a product or a service. And when you purchase, be sure to mention you saw their ad in the St. Thomas bulletin!

**SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY**

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			 <p>320 N. Mill St. Naperville, IL 60540 <b>(630) 420-2886</b></p>	

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

- GREAT COVERAGE - 97%** of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.
- GREAT VALUE - 70%** of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.
- GREAT LOYALTY - 41%** of households do business with a company specifically because they are advertising in the church bulletin.
- GREAT PRODUCT - 62%** of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.

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