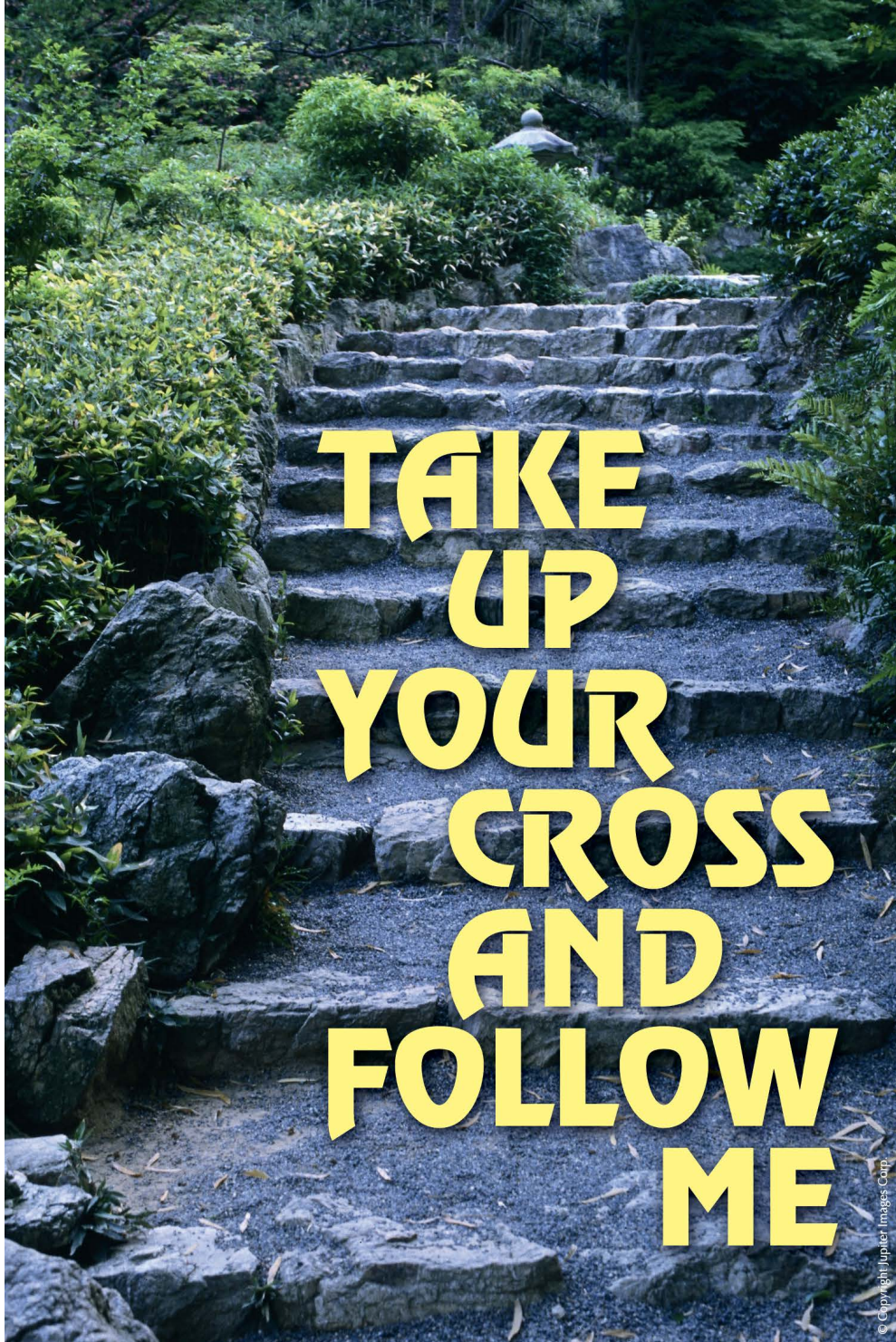


# St. Thomas

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021 — TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# 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–8:00 pm, Monday–Thursday; 9:00 am–4:00 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,

Saturday, September 11, is the twentieth anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the United States. We all remember where we were and what we were doing when we heard the news, just as those who heard the news of Pearl Harbor and the assassination of President Kennedy.

We could not believe that something like that could ever happen here. We cried. We were angry. But we did not despair. Many went to their houses of worship, some of whom might not have been "churchgoers," because many believed, maybe without realizing it, the words from today's Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 115; "Gracious is the Lord and just; yes, our God is merciful. The Lord keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and God saved me."

As we look to God's gracious help, as we ask for comfort us in our times of need, God hopes that our grateful response will be our attentiveness and care for each other.

In the Word,

*Fr. Danaher*



## Liturgy Schedule

### Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday–Saturday

### Weekend (Please Note New Mass Times)

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 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 18–19

### Saturday, September 18

4:30 pm: Fr. Philip Danaher

### Sunday, September 19

8:00 am: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal with Deacon Jim Breen

9:30 am: Fr. Bill Etheredge

11:15 am: Fr. Bill Etheredge

*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



## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 12, 2021

*The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced.*  
— Isaiah 50:7

### Readings for Today

**First Reading** — The Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong? (Isaiah 50:5-9a).

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

**Second Reading** — Faith, if it does not have works, is dead (James 2:14-18).

**Gospel** — Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:27-35).

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:** 1 Tm 2:1-8; Ps 28:2, 7-9; Lk 7:1-10

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17

**Wednesday:** 1 Tm 3:14-16; Ps 111:1-6; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35

**Thursday:** 1 Tm 4:12-16; Ps 111:7-10; Lk 7:36-50

**Friday:** 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Ps 49:6-10, 17-20; Lk 8:1-3

**Saturday:** 1 Tm 6:13-16; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 8:4-15

**Sunday:** Wis 2:12, 17-20; Ps 54:3-8; Jas 3:16 — 4:3; Mk 9:30-37

## Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

### Monday, September 13, 2021

*St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

8:30 am †Austin and Stella Valladaras, by The Noronha Family

### Tuesday, September 14, 2021

*Exaltation of the Cross*

8:30 am †Lancelot Valladaras, by The Noronha Family

### Wednesday, September 15, 2021

*Our Lady of Sorrows*

8:30 am Mass

### Thursday, September 16, 2021

*Saints Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs*

8:30 am †James Maul, by Bill and Joan Swigle

### Friday, September 17, 2021

*Saint Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

8:30 am Mass

### Saturday, September 18, 2021

8:30 am †Mary Gowney, by John Gowney

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Rupert Malone, by Al and Wendy Pinto

†Bettyjean and Rudy Struchil, by Kay and Dick

### Sunday, September 19, 2021

*Twenty-Fifth Sunday Ordinary*

8:00 am For All Victims of the Latest Hurricane

9:30 am †Joanne Mensik, by Kathy Ferguson

Randy Uppling for Healing, by Ann Mitchell

†Joseph Mensik, by Kathy Ferguson

11:15 am For An End to the Pandemic

### Change to Mass Schedule Starts this Weekend

Starting this 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.

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

In today's second reading James compares two kinds of faith, a dead faith and a faith that is alive and active. As he makes perfectly clear, if we come across people who are starving and cold it is simply not enough to wish them well and go on our way. Mark and Isabel decided to apply this in their own family. Isabel said, "We go to Mass every Sunday, we pray together at home and we do things in our parish, but what else can we do to show people who have no job or home that Jesus loves them?" The children decided to save half of their pocket money and their parents would match that amount. At the end of the month they decided to help a shelter for homeless families trying to regain independence. The director thanked them and introduced them to some resident families. On the way home the younger son said, "they were really nice people. Can we go on helping them?" "Yes," said Isabel, "We've only just begun."

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### Prayer in Remembrance of 9/11

May we remember with love and compassion this day.

May we grieve with those who still mourn,

And share memories with those who cannot forget.

May we draw strength from those who bravely responded,

And gave their lives to save others.

May we stand with strangers who became neighbors,

And give thanks for their generosity and hospitality.

May we remember all who have lost loved ones to terrorism and violence,

And be filled not with a call to war but with a longing for peace.

May we seek for understanding and reconciling,

And not turn from your kingdom ways.

Above all God may we remember your faithfulness,

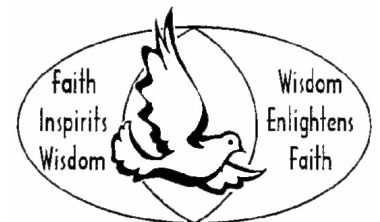
And learn to trust in your unfailing love.

Amen

## Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

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

Our Christian theology is a Trinitarian one. The Christian image of God is that God is triune — a communion of three Persons, each in a unique relationship with the others. It is that life of communion, of connection, of relationship that is our model for living a fully human life. We humans are social creatures. We live in relationship with others. It is that life of relationship — grounded in divine life — that we are all called to share in. Jesus perfectly modeled the Greatest Commandment to love God and put God first, which allowed him to unconditionally love all his neighbors. We are invited to do the same.



The Vatican II Council issued a universal call to holiness. Holiness means putting God at the center of everything. To do that, we could follow the advice of St. Paul (Romans 12:2) to the members of the Roman church — to be transformed through the renewal of your mind in order to discern what is good and pleasing. We are always in need of transformation and renewal. As we near the end of our long series on the subject of justice, we can recall from way back in December that this column defined justice as rendering each person their due, based on their dignity as a human person. The need for justice is always pressing. The invitation to practice justice is always before us. Opportunities to enact justice are always available. We are people of the Resurrection. Resurrection is about life and love. But the question remains — will we lead the risen life and act like the risen people we are? That choice is always before us.

## In.Sight to Meet

The In.Sight discussion forum will meet via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, September 28. This month's session, "The Dignity of Work," will consider excerpts from Studs Terkel's seminal book *Working*, illuminating how "Work is a search for daily meaning as well as daily bread . . ." Expanding the topic will be Corey Frandlin's essay Three Striking Signs of a Person's True Passion. "Money isn't the main driver, meaning is." We find meaning in work rooted in passion.

"We were created with a vocation to work." So says the 5<sup>th</sup> Principle of Catholic Social Teaching promulgated by the U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "The economy exists to serve people, not the other way around." Seldom do we consider the work we do in those terms. More often it is a drudge or a chore. Often it is dictated by circumstance rather than choice. Probably two-thirds of our lives are spent in some type of paying occupation. So how do we prevent our jobs from defining/consuming us?

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" is the classic question posed to children. How was your life shaped by that question and how do you think of work now? Get some insights from the lives and work of others and add your own story.

To download the materials or have them printed for you, contact Neil Phipps at [nphipps1125@gmail.com](mailto:nphipps1125@gmail.com). To receive the Zoom link contact Carrie Wujek at [cawujek@gmail.com](mailto:cawujek@gmail.com). In.Sight meets the fourth Tuesday of most months. All are welcome to attend at any time.

## 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 [crosales@stapostle.org](mailto:crosales@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 [crosales@stapostle.org](mailto:crosales@stapostle.org).

## 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.



St. Thomas the Apostle  
November 13-14, 2021



## News from All Saints Catholic Academy

### A Message from the Principal

Hello! My name is Margie Marshall, and on August 18, I began my ninth school year as a Catholic school principal and my second year here at All Saints Catholic Academy. It's safe to say I'm no longer a newbie, and you would imagine the position would become easier with time! However, the role of a principal has changed dramatically over these nine years and especially over the last 18 months. I am continually learning how to be better at my job as the needs of our students, families and community continue to evolve.



As a principal, you wear many hats. Anyone who visits ASCA knows that in the same day they may see me passing out lunches, leading professional development, conducting classroom observations and loading cars at dismissal. During the pandemic you can add frequent conversations with our school nurse and reviewing COVID-19 protocols to the list of daily tasks!

There are parts of this job that are wonderful — greeting the students each morning, seeing excellent lessons in action, or for a numbers-driven person like me, analyzing student data and discussing instructional strategies for growth. There are also parts of my role that are challenging and at times unpleasant — disciplining students, fielding concerns from upset parents or staff and making decisions that may be unpopular (even when I know they are right). Each day is different.

At the end of each day, however, I've learned to ask myself if what I'm doing is helping kids to learn, grow and experience God's love. As long as I can continue to answer "yes" to that question, I know that I am in the right place and listening to God's call. I make a conscious choice each day to focus on the daily moments that bring a smile to my face. Two that stand out to me at the beginning of this school year:

- A new first grade student has been having a rough time transitioning to school. After a few days of tears, we have now had four days in a row where she has entered school on her own! I love seeing her big smile at lunch and knowing that she now feels safe and at home here.
- A student who was new last year was struggling to make friends, failing multiple classes, not turning in work and not engaging in class. After just a few weeks of working with our resource team, her grades began to improve (as did her attitude toward school). By the fourth quarter, she had multiple As on her report card! This fall, we're off to a great academic start, and I see this student in the center of a group of friends at recess, talking and laughing!

At All Saints we have excellent academics, strong enrollment, great sports teams, and so much more. However, it's the moments with the children — the waves in the hallway, the excited face at recess, the joy in showing off a good grade - that I celebrate each day. I am blessed to be part of a school where we work together to address challenges and keep our core mission, developing future leaders in a Christ-centered community, at the heart of all we do.

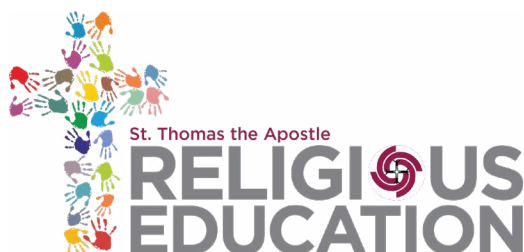


# Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

## 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!



## Middle School Religious Education...What Are They Learning?

Middle School Religious Education classes meet approximately 20 times from September through April. The Catholic Connections Handbook for Middle Schoolers is the middle school textbook, and it offers a comprehensive overview of the Catholic faith which takes middle school classes three years to 'unpack.'

As the RE year begins, sixth graders explore the ways that God is made known to us. These sessions introduce knowing and understanding the Scriptures and Tradition as sources of God's revelation. The core activities in these sessions cover basic teachings about God, the Holy Trinity and God's plan for salvation.

Seventh graders learn about the mission and structure of the Church, how the Holy Spirit moves in God's people and concrete ways that the Holy Spirit is present in the Church today. The weekly sessions explore how God's Spirit was present in the lives of the Apostles, examine various models that help to understand the meaning of Church, and look at how all the baptized participate in the mission of Christ to make disciples of all nations.

Eighth graders begin the year learning about Christian morality and justice, which includes the moral principles embodied in the Ten Commandments, and how to apply Christian moral principles to various real-life situations. They will also be encouraged to use these principles in their own daily lives as they examine their own experiences and consider many of the moral dilemmas young people face.

## 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.

## Support the Scouts ... Buy Popcorn!

It is Scout Popcorn time! Come see the variety of popcorn that is for sale. Support the Cub Scout Pack 125 by buying popcorn after Mass. They have tables set up outside the gathering area doors. Stop by after Mass.

## Save the Date Rosary Prayer Rally

Looking for an outdoor safe family faith activity? Come pray the rosary outside Saturday, October 16 at 12:00 . No experience needed. Contact Lorraine Katz with questions.

## Question of the week ...

What title of Jesus do you give him to better understand who Jesus is?



## 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>

## DuPage PADS New Proposal Permanent Site for Homeless

The DuPage PADS homeless shelter plan has for years utilized local churches to house the homeless ... a different church each night of the week. St. Thomas PADS Ministry has served at United Methodist the first Sunday of each month. The pandemic forced a different approach ... housing the homeless in area motels for the duration of the pandemic. That approach is still in place and has proven to be efficient and effective.

*"Our operations over the past 18 months prove this model of interim accommodation is an efficient and effective way to break the cycle of homelessness at its onset," said April Redzic, president and CEO of DuPage PADS. "Making this service offering permanent will allow us to continue in our goal that no child will have to live out of a car with their family in DuPage County."*

Based on the positive results of the motel approach, DuPage PADS has proposed to repurpose a Downers Grove hotel onto an interim housing center for the homeless. The full DuPage PADS announcement can be read on the St. Thomas website by entering "DuPage PADS" in the search box.

### Add Your Support

DuPage PADS is asking for public support of their Interim Housing Center proposal. See paragraph from DuPage PADS. If you are in agreement with the proposal, go to <https://endhomelessnessstogether.org> to add your support.

*"DuPage Pads' commitment to ending homelessness safely during the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed our work, leading to a better future for more families and individuals. DuPage Pads is proposing the purchase of an Interim Housing Center, taking the next important step to end homelessness! Take one minute now and add your name in support of our Interim Housing Center proposal today. Together, we are creating a brighter future for our neighbors to safely reach a place they can call home!"*

# WHITE FRAGILITY

## Chapter 11: White Women's Tears

*The St. Thomas Solidarity Coalition Ministry is periodically providing chapter summaries of the book White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo. We encourage you to purchase the book and follow along with us as we, as the author states, "challenge racism." The book has generated much controversy among many commentators and reviewers. We encourage you to read with an open mind and form your own opinion. It is a challenging book, and not always an "easy read." It might challenge your beliefs. That is a good thing in these times.*

One way white people may respond to examples of racial injustice is by expressing strong emotions — of anger, sorrow, shame, guilt — by shedding tears.

Heartfelt emotions regarding racial injustice are a positive value, and white people may consider their tears as natural expressions of sadness and sympathy. But for people of color, tears hold a history and a reminder of unjust treatment, terrorism and lynching triggered by a white woman's distress. The murder of Emmett Till is an iconic example. Consequently, tears in cross-racial interactions become problematic. On the one hand, white people may think they are indicating their solidarity with those who have been unjustly treated. But people of color can see those tears as another instance of turning the attention away from the racial injustice and toward comforting the white distress, thereby reinforcing white privilege once again.

DiAngelo asserts the need for white people to respect this historic context: "White people do need to feel grief about the brutality of white supremacy and our role in it ... But our grief must lead to sustained and transformative action ... We must continue to ask how our racism manifests [itself], not if."

## Unlocking Communities

### Update — Work in Africa

*Unlocking Communities was the beneficiary of our 2021 Lenten Project, to be directed toward their new initiative in Africa. Below is an update from Josh Goralski.*

Hello St. Thomas Parish,

I wanted to provide you with an update on our exploration of partnerships to expand Unlocking Communities' work in Africa. We recently returned from a trip to Nairobi, Kenya. Our primary purpose was to advise ICChange on how they can use the lessons Unlocking Communities has learned in their work in Kenya. Prior to and during the trip, we conducted several knowledge-sharing sessions and shared several models and assessments that we developed through our work in Haiti. ICChange can use the knowledge and resources to support their work as they expand through Africa. While in Kenya we had several meetings.

A few highlights from our meetings include:

- Interviewing a group of women in the Mukuru slum who are potential entrepreneurs where we helped ICChange understand the price people are willing to pay for a water filtration system.
- We met one-on-one with community leaders in the Kibera slum to better understand the need for clean water in the community.
- We met with a leader of the regional Jesuit office to discuss opportunities for Unlocking Communities to share knowledge in Kenya and the greater East Africa region.

Thank you for your support of our work in Africa. It has allowed us to assist ICChange in expanding its reach in Kenya. I am humbled by the continued support St. Thomas Parish provides to Unlocking Communities.

Josh Goralski  
Founder and CEO, [Unlockingcommunities.org](http://Unlockingcommunities.org)

## Haiti Earthquake

### Duchity Update

*Due to Bulletin deadlines, this article was written on Friday, September 3 . . . 20 days after the 7.2 magnitude earthquake occurred in southwestern Haiti, severely impacting our Twinning community of Duchity. More timely updates may be found on the St. Thomas website home page.*

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 aftershocks 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 at [stapostle.org](http://stapostle.org) for pictures from Duchity.

### Conversation with Dr. Nickson

We spoke with Dr. Nickson recently. As the conversation was beginning, we heard loud shouts and screams in the background. He asked us to please wait. A minute later he reported that they had just experienced yet another aftershock (20 days after the earthquake). They had evacuated the clinic building.

On the day of the earthquake, a medical team from our clinic and others in the community 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 people more seriously injured were evacuated to hospitals in Camp Perrin and Les Cayes. 41 deaths were reported in the area.

Dr. Nickson reported that most of the current medical treatments are follow-ups to initial injuries. Four mobile clinics have visited areas in the Duchity countryside. He is grateful for the support of St. Thomas over the years, especially the schools. He is from Duchity and graduated from St. Thomas School. A St. Thomas parishioner helped support him through medical school. He is so grateful to be working in his home community.

### Relief Supplies — Second St. Thomas Truck Arrives

St. Thomas has provided funding for two truck deliveries of medical supplies, food and some tarps for shelter. The first truck arrived in Duchity the Friday after the earthquake. The second arrived Thursday, September 2. It included medical supplies from Partners in Health. Two other trucks organized by Youthhaiti (a Duchity based organization) have also reached Duchity.

### 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. Ertha's plan is to build a simple "shelter structure" to provide more secure space for the caretakers and children. She is gathering quotes for the construction.



*Fr. Emery (right) receiving supplies from second truck*

## 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 new and clean gently used blankets, sleeping bags and winter coats in the designated bin in the Gathering Area. Thank you!

## Pro-Life Group Invites You

Our St. Thomas Pro-Life Group would like to invite our fellow parishioners to join us at our upcoming meeting at 7:00 pm on September 22. It will be a Zoom meeting. If you are interested in attending the meeting or have questions about our Pro-Life group, please contact Eileen McGleam at [jmcgleam@hotmail.com](mailto:jmcgleam@hotmail.com).

Our mission as a parish organization is to promote greater respect for all human life, with special emphasis on the issue of abortion. Some of our group's activities have included:

- Organizing the Swaddling Collection each Christmas for local pregnancy centers.
- Speaking to our religious education students about the sanctity of life.
- Working with Forty Days for Life in praying at abortion sites.
- Arranging for pro-life speakers on Respect Life Sundays.
- Conducting postcard campaigns to our legislators regarding life issues.
- Offering Mother's Day and Father's Day cards and small gratitude gifts to parents on those holidays.

We hope you will join us as we consider how best to promote the dignity of all people, even in these very divisive times.

*The St. Thomas Pro-Life Group*

## Retired Flag Collection This Weekend and Next

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. Collection containers will be in the Narthex and Gathering Area through Sunday, September 19. The Knights will respectfully dispose of them in the proper manner.

# Service Commission — Pastoral Care

From the Behavioral Health Ministry:

## September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call the The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800.273.TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.

Suicidal thoughts, much like mental health conditions, can affect anyone regardless of age, gender or background. In fact, suicide is often the result of an untreated mental health condition. Suicidal thoughts, although common, should not be considered normal and often indicate more serious issues.

September is Suicide Prevention Month — a time to raise awareness on this stigmatized, and often taboo, topic. In addition to shifting public perception, we use this month to spread hope and vital information to people affected by suicide. Our goal is ensuring that individuals, friends and families have access to the resources they need to discuss suicide prevention and to seek help.

Throughout the month of September, NAMI will highlight “Together for Mental Health,” which encourages people to bring their voices together to advocate for better mental health care, including a crisis response system. NAMI wants any person experiencing suicidal thoughts or behaviors to have a number to call, a system to turn to, that would connect them to the treatment and support they need.

Need more information, referrals or support? Contact the NAMI HelpLine <http://www.nami.org/Find-Support>

The NAMI HelpLine is a free, nationwide peer-support service providing information, resource referrals and support to people living with a mental health condition, their family members and caregivers, mental health providers and the public. HelpLine staff and volunteers are experienced, well-trained and able to provide guidance.

- They understand, many from their own experiences, listen and offer support.
- They are informed on NAMI Programs, NAMI Support Groups and how to locate your local NAMI Affiliate.
- They are trained to help identify the best resource options for your individual concern.
- They are knowledgeable and a source of accurate information about relevant topics.
- They care.

Source: [NAMIDupage.org](http://NAMIDupage.org)



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
St. Thomas the Apostle

## 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.

**Come join us on Wednesday, September 15 at 10:00 am in the Lighthouse.**

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**

*Our Lady of Sorrows Feast Day*

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

The Church Honors Mary as Our Lady of Sorrows. She is the perfect image of faithfulness and devotion to Jesus, and she gives us a perfect example of how to suffer faithfully and well. We can be sure that she also accompanies us whenever we endure painful trials and tribulations.

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.

For further information please contact Susan Kearney at 630.355.8980, x108 or [sdkearney@comcast.net](mailto:sdkearney@comcast.net).

Everyone is required to wear a face mask. There is no registration/contact tracing. A section of the church will be socially distanced.



**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 this weekend, Sunday, September 12.

The screening sites are located 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

**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



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

From the Office of the Parish Nurse  
**Wellspring Presents**

*I'm Listening ... Dealing with the Aftershocks of COVID-19*

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

7:00 pm in the Lighthouse

Featuring Rev. Karen Swiderski, MACM

"I'm Listening ... Dealing with the Aftershocks of COVID-19." That's the impetus behind the listening session that will be hosted at 7:00 pm in The St. Thomas Lighthouse on Wednesday, September 29 by Wellspring, which is sponsored by both Pastoral Care and Adult Faith Formation.

The past year and a half has been hard on everyone, dominated by the COVID-19 virus, impacting to varying degrees our bodies, minds and spirits.

This session, facilitated by Rev. Karen Swiderski, MACM, aims to help us validate and process our experiences, thoughts and feelings in a safe and understanding environment. Rev. Swiderski is the Manager of Spiritual Care and Pastoral Education at Edward-Elmhurst Hospital and Linden Oaks Behavioral Health Center and has for 28 years been the Chaplain Manager.

Registration to attend this session is appreciated by September 27 and should be directed to Faith Community Nurse Felicia Lawlor at [flawlor@stapostle.org](mailto:flawlor@stapostle.org).

Walk-ins are also welcome. All participants need to be masked.

# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, September 13

4:30–5:15 pm Youth Choir, Cana  
 6:15–8:30 pm Knights of Columbus, Lighthouse  
 7:15–8:30 pm Middle School at All Saints Academy

### Tuesday, September 14

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

### Wednesday, September 15

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center  
 10:00–12:30 pm PrimeTime, Lighthouse  
 4:30–5:15 pm Joyful Jammers, Cana  
 7:00–8:00 pm Comfort My People, Prayer Service for Healing, Church

### Thursday, September 16

9:15–11:15 am Thursday AM Bible Study, Senior Center  
 10:00 am–12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry, Emmaus  
 6:30–8:30 pm Life Retreat Planning, Gym, Youth Center  
 7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

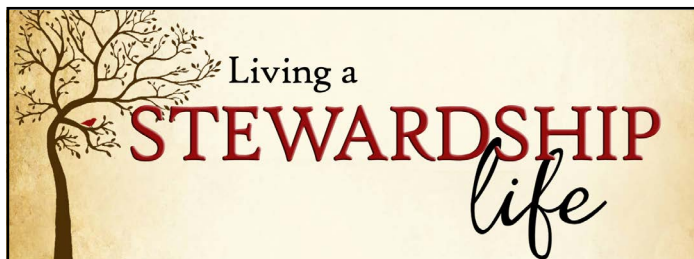
### Friday, September 17

7:00–9:00 pm Sophia's Circle, Lighthouse

### Saturday, September 18

8:30–9:45 am Middle School RE at All Saints Academy  
 8:30–11:45 am Elementary RE at All Saints Academy  
 9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Cana  
 3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Reconciliation Room

### Sunday, September 19



A number of years ago, St. Thomas decided to ask for a monthly donation to be put aside for special projects, like a new roof or a repaving of a parking lot. In other parishes that might be a one time "Capital Campaign" and, if you have belonged to other parishes for a number of years, you probably have participated in quite a few of those campaigns.

In every packet of envelopes you receive you will notice a few envelopes that have a blue border and a designation for a particular month. These are "Capital Needs" donations and these donations are an on going way to raise funds above and beyond the Parish's every day needs.

We hope you choose to use these envelopes when you are able. Thank you for supporting St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

### Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

#### Weekly Sunday Offertory

August 29, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$9,582
Credit Card Online Giving	reported monthly
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$4,251
Total for the week	\$13,833
<small>*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation</small>	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$304,574
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$33,842
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$302,125
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$2,449
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	\$1,441,026

This week, the Sunday collection is \$2,449 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$167 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

#### Diocesan Appeal 2021

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,100
Pledges Received	\$147,510
Percent of Goal pledged to date	84.73%
Unpaid pledges	\$6,803
Paid to Date	\$140,707
Percent of goal paid to date	80.82%

### 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!





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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