

St. Thomas

NOVEMBER 14, 2021 — THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Walk in
Jesus's footsteps



Norah Shae Bocher

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville, IL 60563 | 630.355.8980 (Main Office) | 630.305.6318 (RE) | 630.355.0521 (Fax) | mainoffice@stapostle.org | stapostle.org
Roman Catholic Diocese of Joliet-in-Illinois • Most Rev. Ronald A. Hicks, Bishop

Office Hours: 8:30 am–4:30 pm, Monday–Friday.

Gathering Area reception desk is staffed 9:00 am–8:00 pm Monday–Thursday; 9:00 am–4:30 pm, Friday; and 9:00 am–1:00 pm, Saturday

Parish Staff

Priests in Residence

Rev. Philip Danaher, *Pastor*, x102, pdanaher@stapostle.org
Rev. Joseph Kappilumakkal, CMI, *Parochial Vicar*, x103, jkapp@stapostle.org

Priests Assisting on Weekends

Rev. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm., *Weekend Associate*, robco@robco.org
Rev. Matt Lorenz, *Senior Vicar*, Archdiocese of Chicago

Permanent Deacons

Jim (Mary Jo) Breen — 630.486.3133, jimb4853@gmail.com
Joe (Carolyn) Cuzzzone — 630.355.8980, x224, DeaconJoeCuzzzone@gmail.com
Larry (Susan) Kearney — 630.355.8980, x225, lrkearney@comcast.net
Patrick (Mary Jo) Lennon — 630.901.3223, presence.now@gmail.com

Liturgy and Music

Kay Agustin, *Liturgy Administrative Assistant*, x112, litadmin@stapostle.org
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Samantha Delke, *Associate Director of Liturgy and Music*, x120, sdelke@stapostle.org

Faith Formation

Peggy Goralski, *Director of Middle School Faith Formation*, x123, pgoralski@stapostle.org
Dorothy Grantham, *Director of Youth/Young Adult Ministry*, x117, dgrantham@stapostle.org
Lorraine Katz, *Director of Religious Education*, x109, lkatz@stapostle.org
Jenni Kennedy, *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, REAdmin@stapostle.org
Geraldyn Parrillo, *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, REAdmin@stapostle.org
Chari Rosales, *Director of Adult Education and RCIA*, x138, crosales@stapostle.org

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

Outreach and Social Justice

Sally Meno, *OSJ Associate*, x137, smeno@stapostle.org
Michael Ryder, *Director of Outreach and Social Justice*, x121, mryder@stapostle.org
Anne Schultz, *OSJ Partner*, x113, aschultz@stapostle.org

Pastoral Care

Felicia Lawlor, *Faith Community Nurse*, x104, flawlor@stapostle.org
Jan Olah, *Director of Pastoral Care*, x124

Administration

Casey Braun, *Communications Coordinator*, x110, cbraun@stapostle.org
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Bob Hartmann, *Facility Manager*, x133, facility@stapostle.org
Maureen Januszewski, *Gen Office Administrative Asst.*, x100, mainoffice@stapostle.org
Diane McQueen, *Gen Office Administrative Asst.*, x101, dmcqueen@stapostle.org
Chris Ridge, *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*
Janet Simmons, *Finance/Business Officer*, x106, jsimmons@stapostle.org
Sue Sportiello, *Financial Asst.*, x143, sspartiello@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

Linda Bailey, *Service* Susan Wood O'Leary, *Finance*
Jeff Balsewicz, *Worship* Carrie Wujek, *Faith & Spiritual Formation*

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

Letter from the Bishop



Dear Friends,

Our diocese will soon take up the national collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), which serves as the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty initiative. Helping our brothers and sisters living on the margins has always been a key element of Catholic social teaching, but these efforts have taken on a new dimension during the current global health crisis. As Pope Francis noted last month, "the pandemic has laid bare the social inequalities that afflict our peoples. . . .

To ignore those who have fallen is to ignore our own humanity that cries out in every brother and sister of ours." (*On the Occasion of the Fourth World Meeting of Popular Movements, Oct. 16, 2021.*)

It's important to remember that 25 percent of the collection stays within our diocese to be distributed through grants to local organizations whose mission is to help the marginalized. Let me tell you about two of those groups.

We Grow Dreams is a nonprofit greenhouse and landscaping service in West Chicago. As its name indicates, it grows more than plants. It offers training and jobs to people with physical and mental disabilities, beginning while they are still in high school. This early start sets these individuals on a path to a more independent life.

Garden of Youth Prayer Center in Kankakee County focuses on strengthening families by supporting children and parents. Group homes and foster care families provide the love and nurturing at-risk children need. Family and individual counseling, mentoring and job readiness training accompany these children through each stage of development.

The motto of CCHD is that it "offers a hand up, not a hand out." Let us extend our hands in service to our brothers and sisters who need our help through a donation on the weekend of November 20-21.

Paz y bien,

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks

Bishop of Joliet

Liturgy Schedule

Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday–Saturday

Weekend

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 details.

Presider Schedule November 20–21

Saturday, November 20

4:30 pm: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

Sunday, November 21

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

9:30 am: Fr. Matt Lorenz

11:15 am: Fr. Phillip Danaher 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!

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.



Church Office and Building Hours

St. Thomas offices are open 8:30 am–4:30 pm Monday through Friday. The reception desk in the Gathering Area is staffed 9:00 am–8:00 pm Monday–Thursday; 9:00 am–4:30 pm Friday; and 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



Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 14, 2021

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

— Mark 13:31

Readings for Today

First Reading — Those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever (Daniel 12:1-3).

Psalms — You are my inheritance, O Lord! (Psalm 16).

Second Reading — Where there is forgiveness, there is no longer offering for sin (Hebrews 10:11-14, 18).

Gospel — Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away (Mark 13:24-32).

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 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44 or (for the memorial of the Dedication) Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Ps 98:1-6; Mt 14:22-33

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11-12; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday: Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

Monday, November 15, 2021

St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:30 am †Michael Christopher Johnson, by Dan and Sue Sportiello

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude, Virgin

8:30 am †Bunny Lewis, by Kathy Singer and Family

Wednesday, November 17, 2021

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

8:30 am †Gail Ruhnke

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

8:30 am †Robert Walden, by The Valencia Family

Friday, November 19, 2021

8:30 am †Ann Battisto, by Battisto Family

Saturday, November 20, 2021

8:30 am Special Intention for Ed Olah, by John and Felicia Lawlor

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Joanna Vesper, by Mark Vesper

†Donald LaBonte, by Larry and Susan Kearney

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

8:00 am Healing for Jean Stuckel, by John Growney

9:30 am †Anastacio Mercado, by The Mercado Family

†Guadalupe Garcia, by The Garcia Family

†Joe Mensik, by VOF Choir

11:15 am †Marilyn Ferris, by Audrey Easton

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Reflecting on God's Word

This Sunday is the second to last Sunday of our liturgical year. As we approach the end of the Church year, our Gospel invites us to consider Jesus' predictions and teaching about the end of the world. In the context of Mark's Gospel, Jesus' words about this are spoken to his disciples as he prepares them for his passion and death. Jesus' words are not spoken to frighten his disciples, nor should they frighten us. Rather, they are offered to prepare us for the changes we will experience during our lifetimes and at the end times. Our consolation and hope is found in the lasting nature of Jesus' words and God's never-ending love for us.

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MUSIC MAKERS

St. Thomas the Apostle



Lessons and Carols

This year, we are not able to celebrate Lessons and Carols as we would normally — with a large gathering in the church, lectors, musicians, etc. Instead, we will be doing virtual prayer services released each Sunday of Advent with which our St. Thomas the Apostle Community members can engage at home. See the website for more details. Begins Sunday, November 29.

Book of Life

During the month of November, there will be a display to remember our beloved departed in the St. Thomas Narthex. Also, there is a book for you to enter names of deceased loved ones. All the names that are entered in this book will be prayed for in a special way during the month of November.

Thanksgiving Day Mass

St. Thomas' Thanksgiving Day Mass will be Thursday, November 25 at 9:00 am.

Fr. Joseph will be the Presider and Deacon Joe Cuzzone will preach. All St. Thomas Youth Music Ministers (teens, middle school and youth) will be the song leaders. All are invited to bring bread and wine that you will use over the Thanksgiving holiday to be blessed at this Mass. After the liturgy, you will take home the items that you brought.



At Home with the Word

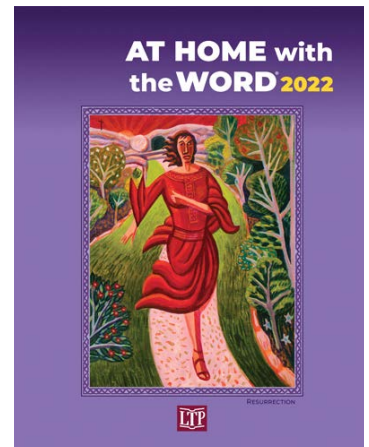
The *At Home with the Word* book is a great tool for breaking open the Sunday Scriptures at home; helping you to reflect further on God's Word and preparing to celebrate the Sunday Liturgy. Commentaries about the readings assist in comprehension and a deeper dive into the Sacred Scripture.

Books are for sale at the Front Desk during the week:

Regular Print: \$9.00

Large Print: \$13.00

Check or exact cash ONLY.



"I am St. Thomas" Program

Thank you to all parishioners who have completed and submitted your commitment card. For those parishioners who have not yet had the opportunity to submit their card, a final letter will be mailed to you with a personalized commitment card. We invite all faithful parishioners to complete a card as our parish goal is 100 percent participation! You may return your card by mailing it to the church using the pre-addressed envelope included with the letter, bringing it to Mass next Sunday or completing an electronic commitment card at www.stapostle.org.

All cards need to be returned to the parish by Sunday, December 5.

As a friendly reminder, electronic giving is an easy, safe and secure way to support St. Thomas the Apostle Church. To set up a recurring weekly or monthly gift or to make a one-time donation directly from your bank account or credit card, please visit our website and follow the instructions. We are grateful for your support!



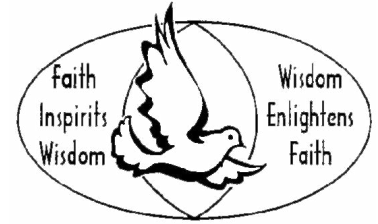
Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

If you've ever read or studied the prophets of the Old Testament, you're familiar with the struggles of their times and the messages they announced to those in positions of power. The issues of their times included courting foreign powers and military strength rather than relying on the guidance of God; legal experts

corrupting the laws in order to oppress the most vulnerable; government officials being bad examples of leadership and falling short of their job responsibilities; the wealthy grabbing land and resources from the poor and creating food insecurity. These are all examples of social injustices, which this column explored in great depth over the past year.

We still sadly have all these same problems today. So we still need prophetic voices of truth, even though we don't listen to them any more than the people did during the times of the prophets centuries ago. But we need to be constantly reminded of where we're falling short in order to be called to action. And the reality is that it's possible for us to change, to be more compassionate, to be more just — to be holy people. That is our God-given potential. We see those virtues in the lives of our best role models — the saints. And that's where this column is headed. So meet us back here next week as we begin to look at the lives of some of our more noble ancestors in faith in order to see what we can learn from them.



Advent by Candlelight 2021

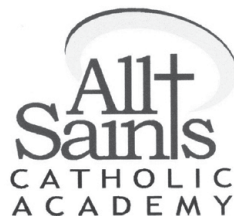
Mary's Garden will be the focus of this year's in-person (masked) event on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, from 7:00–9:00 pm. Over centuries many flowers and shrubs have come to be associated with attributes of the Blessed Mother and with events in her life. The evening will center on 10 flowers associated with Mary through pictures, stories and legends, religious art and prayerful reflections.

Come to enjoy the companionship of friends and make new acquaintances. A \$10 donation at the door is suggested. Reservations can be made now. RSVP to REAdmin@stapostle.org no later than December 1. Both table hostesses and presenters are needed. If you would like to help in this way, please also contact REAdmin@stapostle.org. Hosting a table would consist of supplying place settings for six and a centerpiece; theme and decorations of your choice. If you would like to be a presenter, you will be supplied with all the necessary info for you to customize — no research needed!

This Advent, invite Mary into the garden of your heart and surround yourself with flowers in December.

News from All Saints Catholic Academy October Happenings at All Saints

The month of October was busy and filled with events that included our Fun Run With the Saints, Red Ribbon Week, Trunk or Treat and Halloween parties, culminating in the celebration of our All Saints' Day feast on November 1 along with our First Annual All Saints Catholic Academy Day of Giving.



All Saints Catholic Academy is a preschool through grade 8 school of 478 students, where you will find family, community and excellence grounded in faith.

There are limited immediate openings available in grades 2, 3, 4 and 6 for this current school year, with 2022-2023 enrollment accepted at our Open House on Sunday, January 30, 2022.



John Angotti Go Tell It on the Mountain Tour

From Advent to Christmas

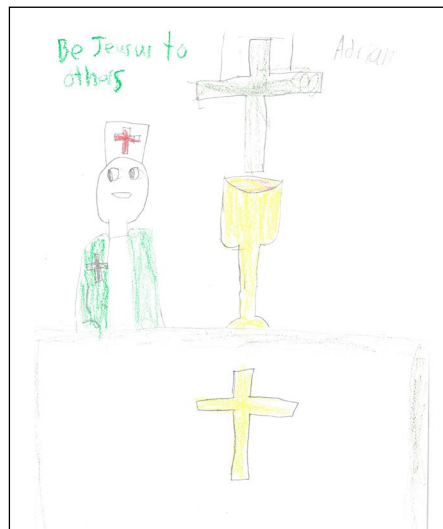
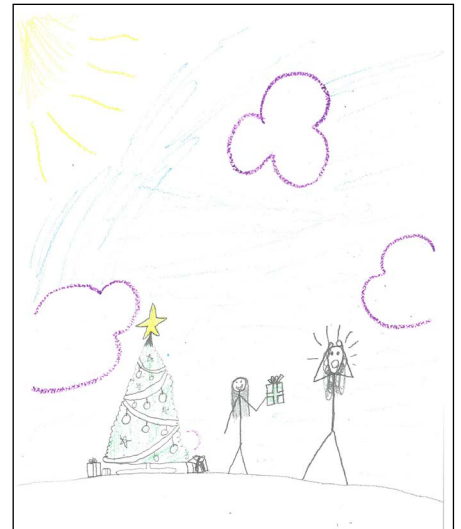
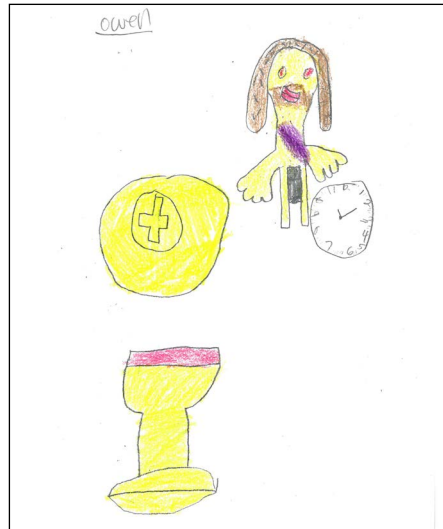
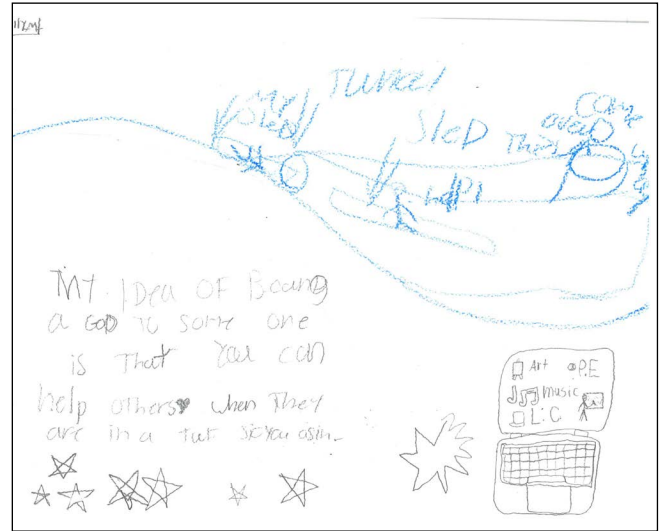
We all have our faith stories and we are all called to go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is alive and dwells among us.

**COMING TO VISITATION PARISH, ELMHURST
A FAMILY EVENT
SUNDAY DECEMBER 5, 2021
2nd SUNDAY IN ADVENT
3:30 pm in the Church**

ADVENT - CHRISTMAS CONCERT
Also featuring Visitation's Adult, High School,
and Children's Choirs
For more information contact
Tony Cuzzone at 630-530-2945 or tcuzzyman@comcast.net

For more information about John Angotti, visit
www.johnangotti.com

Children in fourth grade elementary Religious Education classes have been learning about the Mass and preparing for their own grade level Mass this weekend on Saturday, November 13 at 4:30 pm. The artwork depicted is the children's artwork after hearing and discussing today's readings. Enjoy!



Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



St. Thomas the Apostle

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

First Reconciliation Parent Enrichment Session of Fourth and Fifth Grade Children

The Parent Enrichment Make-up Session for First Reconciliation is now Monday, November 29, 2021, from 7:00–8:30 pm in the Church. Only one parent, who desires to have their child receive First Reconciliation in the spring of 2022, needs to attend. The session will cover Theology of the Reconciliation by Fr. Philip Danaher and Preparation for Reconciliation, presented by Lorraine Katz.

Please RSVP to the Faith Formation Office at REAdmin@stapostle.org or lkatz@stapostle.org. If you have any questions, please contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109.

Fourth Grade Mass is Saturday, November 13 4:30 pm

Fourth grade students and their families will be part of the fourth grade Mass on Saturday, November 13 at 4:30 pm. The children have been learning about the Mass. They have also been busy preparing for the Mass. They will be contributing by being readers, gift bearers, host greeters, bulletin cover designers and even writing prayers of the faithful.

We thank the catechists who have been sharing their faith and teaching the children in the fourth grade classes: Jennifer Bennett, Becky Khayum and Jackie Vu along with their aides Kate Kerestes, Kelly Miles, Erin O' Donahue and Thuc Vu.

RE Tuition Angel

Would you like to be a tuition angel for a family attending Religious Education (RE) classes? For some of our St. Thomas families, it is a struggle to pay their RE tuition. If you can help the fees are: \$145 for one child, \$240 for two children or \$315 for three children. Please make checks payable to St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Please write tuition gift on the memo line of the check. Please send it to the Faith Formation/Religious Education Office, attention Lorraine Katz. Thank you for your generosity of being a tuition angel. It is greatly appreciated.

Question of the week

How do we prepare ourselves now for Jesus' to come again?

Important Dates for Elementary RE Classes

November 13, December 4, 11 and 18

Saturday Elementary RE classes meet

November 16, 30 and December 7, 14 and 21

Tuesday Elementary RE classes meet.

Important Dates for Middle School RE

November 13, December 4, 11, 18

Saturday middle school RE classes meet.

November 15, 29, December 6, 13

Monday middle school RE classes meet.

NOTE: Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there are no middle school RE classes on November 20, 22 and 27.



Teens with Character

Middle school students ... Teens with Character will meet on Sunday, November 14, from 4:30–6:00 pm, at St. Thomas.

Bring your facemask and join us. Games, faith sharing, checking in with each other and pizza are all part of the Teens with Character experience.

We would love to see you!

Harvest Sunday = Abbondanza!

Abbondanza is an Italian word meaning abundant. That word can certainly be used to describe this year's Harvest Sunday efforts. It takes so many people to make Harvest Sunday happen. Volunteers responded abundantly. Thank you so much to those who covered neighborhood routes, those who were the St. Thomas presence at Casey's asking for donations and those who offered their time to help sort and pack. Thank you also to those who donated food. You are the hands and feet of Christ in our world. Although final numbers are not available yet, the 'abbondanza' moments of Harvest Sunday will be shared in the coming weeks.



Stan's Donuts Fundraiser for St. Thomas Youth Ministry

The St. Thomas teens are holding another fundraiser for their trip to the National Catholic Youth Conference.

The Stan's Van from Stan's Donuts is headed to St Thomas Sunday, November 28 from 9:00 am–12:00 pm!

We strongly encourage you to pre-order which will guarantee your donuts.

Place your pre-orders at: <https://foodtruck.pub/?id=5461>



Pre-orders cut off 48 hours before the event, and the options include Stan's Van Dozen, Stan's Greatest Hits, Assorted Half Dozen, Glutenless Half Dozen, and Vegan Half Dozen.

A limited amount of donuts will be available for onsite purchase.

A portion of the event sales will be donated to St Thomas the Apostle Youth Ministry. Thank you for your support!

Thanksgiving Playlist

Although Thanksgiving is a national holiday, it also gives us a reason to pause and take stock of all for which we are thankful. More importantly, Thanksgiving also gives a chance to remember the source of our blessings. The Thanksgiving playlist offers many links and suggestions to make the holiday more meaningful. Check it out on the St. Thomas website.



Help Fill Care Pantry Christmas Stockings

St. Thomas middle and high school students are filling Christmas stockings for the children of our Care Pantry families. Can you help by donating items to fill the stockings? Donations are needed by December 15 and can be brought to the Gathering Area or given to Dorothy Grantham or Peggy Goralski.

Suggested stocking stuffer items include the following:

- Candy, gum and mints
- Chapstick, fun hair items
- Gloves and socks
- Gift cards (in small amounts) for Starbucks, McDonalds, Dunkin, or Taco Bell
- Puzzle books or other small toy items

We appreciate your help!

Joint Middle School and High School Service Project

Middle and high school students are invited let their light shine while helping others. Come to the St. Thomas gym on Saturday, December 4, from 5:30–7:30 pm for a special project... decorating and filling Christmas stockings for our Care Pantry families. Besides the service project, the evening will also include pizza and some other fun surprises.

Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

Art Fair — Virtual Silent Auction

Bidding Ends Sunday, November 14 at 1:30 pm!

This is the weekend for the St. Thomas Arts and Crafts Fair. New this year is a virtual silent auction on the St. Thomas website (www.stapostle.org). St. Nicholas Catholic Church is our “twinning” parish in Aurora. All proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the St. Nicholas’ School of Faith religious education program for the youth of the parish.

Silent auction bids are now being accepted on the St. Thomas website. Bidding ends at 1:30 pm Sunday, November 14 (at the end of the Art Fair).

Silent Auction Items include:

- **Cress Creek Country Club Foursome Round of Golf** *Includes green fees and cart fees.*
- **Custom Tank Drum** *Includes drum, mallets, and sheet music Donated by Tom Liebling of Custom Tank and Drum. The tank drum is one of the world’s oldest known instruments. They have been a part of African, Asian and South American cultures for thousands of years.*
- **Basket of Wine** *For the wine lover. Stock your wine fridge this holiday season! You’ll love this assortment of wine to share with friends! Enjoy these nine bottles of red and white varietals. Natural wooden wine rack included. See website for details.*
- **Vera Bradley Stationary Basket** *Includes self-collapsible lunch bag, hot/cold thermos, cold travel tumbler, clipboard folio, 8 file folders, meal planner with magnet, note cube, pencil pouch, various notebooks and updated planner.*
- **Family Board Game Basket** *Five fun board games for family game night. The Climbers (ages 8 and up), Relative Insanity (ages 14 and up), Tall Tales (ages 4 and up), Card Sharks (ages 14 and up) and Upside Drawn (ages 12 and up).*

Bids are now being accepted on the St. Thomas website.

Visit the Art Fair in the St. Thomas gym:

- Saturday, November 13 (10:00 am–6:00 pm)
- Sunday, November 14 (9:00 am–1:30 pm)

The Art Fair features local artists’ original arts and crafts, including: paintings, photography, jewelry, drawings, ceramics, mixed media, woodcrafts, fiber art.

Pro-Life Group Invites You Join for Life!

Pope John Paul II prayed that all who believe in Jesus would proclaim the gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. We invite you to join our St. Thomas Pro-Life group to help us proclaim that message of love to our parish and to the wider community.

Our next Pro-Life meeting is on Wednesday, November 17, at 7:00 pm on Zoom. If you would like to receive a zoom invite, please email Eileen at jmcgleam@hotmail.com.

In these difficult times, we all need to do what we can to speak out for life and love. We hope you feel called to join us.

Autumn Prayer

God of all seasons,
we thank you for Autumn.

We thank you
for the touch of coolness in the air that
gives us a new burst of energy,
for the coloring of trees that shows the
creativity of the Divine Artist,
for the falling leaves that reveal
the strength of the branches,
for the hues of fields that bring peace
to our souls,
for the smiles on pumpkins that bring
joy to children,
for the fall harvest which that brings us
gratitude for the bounty of our land,
for this change of seasons
that reveals the circle of life.

God of all seasons, as you transform the
earth, transform us by your Spirit.

Amen

— Rev. Doug Leonhardt, S.J.



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stapostle.org

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Racial Justice Focus – Survey Results Analysis Report – November 2021

Introduction

St. Thomas has always provided awareness, education, and action opportunities related to social justice issues, including racial justice.

On November 15, 2020, St. Thomas announced a special parish-wide focus on racial justice. That action was in response to events over recent times that brought racial justice issues to the surface for all of us. Each of us was asked to be open of heart and open of mind.

The intention of the racial justice focus was:

- To raise awareness.
- To provide opportunities to educate ourselves and learn from each other.
- To support actions that create a change of heart and bring about systemic change.

Doing all the above centered in prayer.

Since the focus was announced, St. Thomas has offered a variety of initiatives, which included the book study of *Just Mercy*, guest reflections at Mass, and a series of bulletin articles, among others. The intention was to engage the community and bring attention to the issue of racial justice. In order to determine the effectiveness of this considerable body of work, the Racial Justice Focus Committee asked the parish to fill out the Racial Justice Focus Survey and provide feedback.

The survey was offered between June 27 and July 18, 2021. The data was compiled by a six-member team from the Racial Justice Focus Committee.

- The four Yes/No questions were tabulated. The results are presented in Appendix A.
- The written responses for all seven questions were reviewed and correlated based on the themes noted in each response. The number of times each theme was mentioned was counted. Due to the anonymity of the survey, it is possible that one respondent may have made the same point in multiple questions. Appendix B presents the results and includes representative verbatim comments.
- Many of the written response included specific suggestions. All suggestions are presented verbatim in Appendix C.

The Racial Justice Focus Committee analyzed the results of the survey. Below are the major conclusions drawn from the analysis, as well as future actions related to the racial justice issue. The entire report can be viewed on the St. Thomas the Apostle website.

The Racial Justice Focus Committee thanks all parishioners who shared their thoughts through the survey. Questions and comments on this report are welcomed. Comments can be made on the website. The Committee will respond. Conversation and shared wisdom are always helpful.

Racial Justice – Future Direction

It needs to be recognized that every individual is in a different place on the issue of racial justice, and that is okay. It is also true that each individual can learn more about the issue and about their own understandings, beliefs, and opinions.

The Racial Justice Focus was not meant to last forever. It was meant to, over a period of time, provide a special emphasis ... raising awareness and understanding, challenging and perhaps changing views on racial justice. To what degree the objective was met is for each individual to determine.

The Racial Justice Focus is ending this November, after one year. However, since racial justice issues are still with us, racial justice actions and initiatives will continue. The survey results support ongoing racial justice activities.

- A large majority of the survey respondents (73%) believe that the emphasis on racial justice is an appropriate action to take in the parish.
- Two-thirds of the survey respondents answered “Yes” to the question “Are there additional actions we should consider taking?” indicating strong support for continuing actions.

The following actions will be undertaken:

- The Racial Justice Focus Committee will disband. A new Racial Justice Team will be formed.
- A St. Thomas Racial Justice website will be implemented, including prior initiatives, new initiatives, and other racial justice resources.
- Public and private conversation channels will be provided for individuals to express their views and engage in productive conversation.

Racial Justice Survey Conclusions

164 surveys were completed when the survey was offered in July. Based on the number of people attending Mass and tuning in virtually at that time, according to St. Thomas records, the survey yielded approximately a 19% response rate. This seems to be a legitimate representation of the St. Thomas population.

Survey Question 1: Are you aware that St. Thomas is in the midst of a racial justice focus?

The communication to the parish of the Racial Justice Focus action was highly effective. 85% of the survey respondents were aware of the focus.

Survey Question 2: Is the racial justice focus an appropriate action to be undertaken in our parish community?

A large majority of the survey respondents (73%) believe that the emphasis on racial justice is an appropriate action to take in our parish.

A considerable portion of the survey respondents (27%) believe that the emphasis on racial justice is not an appropriate action to take in our parish. There were five primary reasons given. It is important to respond to the concerns of these members of our community. Opportunities for those conversations will be provided.

1. Some parishioners do not believe that racism is an issue.
2. This topic and social justice topics in general are not appropriate for Mass. They are too political.
3. It is polarizing in the community and it creates greater division. It damages the parish.
4. The initiatives were politically biased and other viewpoints should have been included.
5. Some parishioners felt that some of the initiatives implied or even stated that they are racist or that all whites are racist.

Survey Question 3: Since the focus began in November, have the actions taken provided you with any additional awareness, new perspectives, or caused you to think about racial justice implications?

Over half the survey respondents (57%) grew in awareness, developed new perspectives, or were moved to additional thinking about racial justice implications. Assuming that prior to the focus, all parishioners had some awareness of racial justice issues, providing additional insights to over half the community is a positive outcome.

Survey Question 4: Please indicate any specific focus actions that struck a positive note with you and why they struck a positive note.

A variety of the racial justice initiatives were identified as insightful and of value to a variety of people. Providing a variety of opportunities allowed individuals to choose initiatives that appealed to them. The approach was appreciated.

The initiatives most often mentioned as positive were: *Just Mercy* Book Study, Racial Justice Prayer at Mass during Prayers of the Faithful, 21-day Challenge, *White Fragility* Chapter Summaries, 10 Ways to Fight Hate Series, and homily time reflections at Mass.

Survey Question 5: Please indicate any specific focus actions that struck a negative note with you and why they struck a negative note.

Very few initiatives were mentioned as striking a negative note. The only initiative mentioned more than once was *White Fragility* Chapter Summaries.

Survey Question 6: Are there additional actions we should consider taking?

Two-thirds of the survey respondents answered “Yes” to the question “Are there additional actions we should consider taking?” This indicates strong support for continuing actions. Four types of action were most frequently mentioned.

1. Continue to educate.
2. Provide action and advocacy opportunities.
3. Invite people from other cultures to speak at liturgies and other venues.
4. Provide a place for dialogue and small group discussion.

Survey Question 7: Please feel free to provide other comments.

The responses were considered in summarizing the major themes.

DuPage United Update

St. Thomas is a founding member of DuPage United (DU), a non-partisan organization of DuPage County churches, mosques, synagogues and other non-profit institutions. For more information go to www.DuPageUnited.org.

Mental Health

Statistics still show that up to 50 percent of incarcerated individuals in DuPage County suffer from Mental Illness.

DuPage United has a three-pronged approach regarding this issue:

- 1. CIT training for law enforcement and fire department personnel to de-escalate situations, provide alternatives to jail, and avoid violence:** There are continuing increases in numbers of police who are being CIT-trained. County Sheriff Mendrick, who is a supporter of CIT training, stated that mental health care is being given once people are incarcerated, but that there still is no overall diversion strategy prior to incarceration. We will continue working with his office on this. The Naperville Police Department is very advanced in their approach to mental health calls. Seventy five percent of their patrol officers have been trained in CIT. Officers who have a mental health call can be accompanied by a social worker. Those individuals in a crisis are taken to an emergency room and not to jail, unless they are a danger to others.
- 2. Crisis Stabilization Units:** CSUs should be available for persons in a mental health crisis. DU is seeking stand-alone units, like Rosecrance in Kane County. Edward Elmhurst Health has difficulty with uninsured and underinsured patients, so they are still inadequately treated and often sent home. DU is working with the DuPage County Health Department to resolve this.
- 3. Affordable, Accessible and Supportive Housing (AASH):** When a person is released from a mental health facility, they may have no place to go. They may have been homeless prior to this. DU is seeking more AASH facilities. Fox River Valley recently helped establish such a housing facility in Elgin. DU has a potential project in Glen Ellyn for 40-60 units.

Gun Safety Campaign

DU is working on this national campaign. DU leaders in Naperville are building support in the area. Institutions involved include St. Thomas the Apostle, The Islamic Center of Naperville and Congregation Beth Shalom.

Turkey Drive November 20–21

There will be a turkey drive this year (November 20–21) but the number of turkeys needed is much smaller than most years. We will need approximately 225 turkeys.

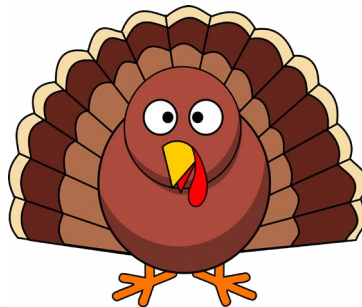
The truck will be in front of the church from 4:00–6:00 pm on Saturday, November 20 and from 7:30 am–12:30 pm on Sunday, November 21.

The Marie Wilkinson Pantry, who we usually provide many turkeys to, has ordered turkeys from Northern Illinois Food Bank.

St. Thomas will provide turkeys to our Care Pantry families, St. Nicholas Food Pantry, St. Patrick Parish in Joliet-where Fr. Dof is the pastor, and St. Patrick's Residence (*next door to St. Thomas*).

The Marie Wilkinson Pantry has asked us to provide hams for their Christmas food distribution. If you are able to help at only the turkey or the ham drive, please consider donating a ham in December, when the need will be much greater.

Thank you to all who have donated turkeys in past years and who will donate a turkey this year.



Racial Justice Focus Survey Results

On November 15, 2020, St. Thomas announced a special parish-wide focus on racial justice. The intention of the racial justice focus was:

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In order to determine the effectiveness of this considerable body of work, the Racial Justice Focus Committee asked the parish to fill out the Racial Justice Focus Survey and provide feedback.

The survey was offered between June 27 and July 18, 2021. Members of the Racial Justice Focus Team are presenting the survey results at all the Masses this weekend (November 13–14).

Complete Survey Results on Website

The survey results talk and the complete survey report are available on the St. Thomas website home page (www.stapostle.org). In addition to the Survey Results Analysis Report, it includes the major themes presented in the written comments, representative verbatim quotes and all specific verbatim suggestions. We hope you will give it your careful attention.

Service Commission — Pastoral Care

From the Office of the Parish Nurse Health Tips: Flu

Signs and symptoms of the flu are:

- Fever
- Chills and Sweats
- Headache
- Dry cough
- Musculature aches and pains, especially in your back, arms and legs
- Nasal congestion
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea and vomiting in children

Medical Help

If you have flu symptoms and are at risk of complications, see your doctor right away. Taking antiviral drugs within the first 48 hours after you first notice symptoms may reduce the length of your illness by a day or two and may help prevent more serious problems. Seek immediate medical care if you have signs and symptoms of pneumonia. These include a severe cough that brings up phlegm, a high fever and a sharp pain when you breathe deeply. If you have bacterial pneumonia, you'll need treatment with antibiotics.

Emergency warning sign of flu

If you experience the following symptoms, seek medical care right away.

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Persistent dizziness, confusion, inability to arouse
- Seizures
- Not urinating
- Severe muscle pain
- Severe weakness or unsteadiness
- Fever or cough that improves but then returns or worsens
- Worsening of chronic medical conditions

(Source: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Home Remedies

If you come down with the flu, these measures may help ease your symptoms:

- **Drink plenty of liquids** Choose water, juice and warm soups to prevent dehydration.
- **Rest** Get more sleep to strengthen your body and help your immune system fight against the infection.
- **Try chicken soup** It's not just good for your soul. Chicken soup really can relieve flu symptoms by helping to break up sinus congestion.
- **Consider pain relievers** Use an over-the-counter pain reliever such as acetaminophen (Tylenol, others) or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, others) cautiously, as needed. Remember, pain relievers may make you feel more comfortable, but they won't make your symptoms go away any faster. They may also have side effects, so follow instructions and do not overuse them. Don't give aspirin to children or teens because of the risk of Reye's syndrome, a rare but potentially fatal disease.

Prevention:

- Get an annual flu vaccination.
- Wash your hands
- Eat right, sleep tight. Both poor diet and poor sleep can lower your immunity and make you more vulnerable to infections.

Resource: Mayo Clinic Press)



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE
St. Thomas the Apostle



Blood Pressure Screening

Blood pressure screening is available after the 9:30 am and 11:15 am Sunday Masses this Sunday, November 14. 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.

Digital Home Monitoring Instruction

Would you be interested in a private, in-person and socially distanced review of Harvard University's guidelines to Home, Digital Blood Pressure Monitoring?

This instruction will be held with all State and Diocesan safety criteria in place. Blood pressures, however, will optimally be taken on a bare arm, please be aware.

Scheduling an appointment at a convenient time for you or scheduling on a Blood Pressure weekend Mass is required by calling Diane McQueen in the General Office at 630.355.8980, x101 to schedule with the Parish Nurse, Felicia Lawlor.

grateful • thankful • blessed



St. Thomas Blood Drive

This is the last week to sign up for the St. Thomas Blood Drive to be held Saturday, November 20 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the St. Thomas Gym.

Sign up is available on the St. Thomas website (www.stapostle.org) or the Versiti site (https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5595966). If you are donating on Saturday,

November 20, go to the Versiti website and look for Versi Pass, click on it and you will be able to complete the question portion of the check-in ahead of time. Print out the QR sheet or save to your phone. It will save you time when you get to the blood drive.

THIS CAN ONLY BE DONE THE DAY OF THE DRIVE!

Make a difference, save a life!

From the Behavioral Health Ministry International Survivors of Suicide Day, November 20, 2021

Losing a loved one to suicide is a traumatic experience. Individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide can experience a form of grieving that is especially intense. This experience can be further exacerbated by societal stigma around suicide.

If you have lost someone to suicide, the first thing you should know is that you are not alone. Each year, nearly 48,000 people in the United States die by suicide — the grieving family and friends they leave behind are known as suicide loss survivors. In fact, research shows that during the course of our lives, many of us will lose someone we care about to suicide. That means there are millions of suicide loss survivors who, like you, are trying to cope with this heartbreaking loss.

Suicide loss survivors often experience a wide range of grief reactions, including some or all of the following:

- Shock, especially early on — you may feel numb or disoriented, and may have trouble concentrating or focusing on usual tasks
- Symptoms that resemble depression, including disturbed sleep, loss of appetite, intense sadness, and a lack of energy
- Anger toward the deceased, another family member, a therapist or yourself
- Relief, particularly if the suicide followed a long and difficult mental illness
- Feelings of guilt or regrets, including thinking, “If only I had ...”

These feelings usually change in intensity over time, and may diminish as you develop your ability to cope and begin to heal.

Suicide is primarily a health issue. Many individuals who die by suicide experienced symptoms of a mental health condition at the time of their death. This mental health condition may not have been diagnosed, or may have been diagnosed and treated, but treatment did not prevent your loved one’s death by suicide.

Here is some guidance from fellow suicide loss survivors:

- Some survivors struggle with what to tell other people; most have found it best to acknowledge that their loved one died by suicide .
- You may find that it helps to reach out to family and friends;
- Maintaining contact with other people is especially important during the stress-filled months after a loved one’s suicide
- Keep in mind that each person grieves in his or her own way; for example, some people visit the cemetery weekly; others find it too painful to go at all.
- Each person also grieves at his or her own pace; there is no set rhythm or timeline for healing.
- Anniversaries, birthdays and holidays may be especially difficult, so you might want to think about whether to continue old traditions or create some new ones.
- Some survivors find comfort in community, religious, or spiritual activities, including talking to a trusted member of the clergy.
- Many survivors use the arts to help them heal, by keeping a journal or writing poetry or music.
- Try to take care of your own well-being; consider visiting your doctor for a check-up.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
St. Thomas the Apostle

Please see more information at the following websites:

Source: Suicide Prevention Resource Center. spec.org

Source: Surviving a Suicide Loss Resource and Healing Guide

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention afsp.org/loss

Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, November 15

4:30–5:15 pm	Youth Choir, Cana
7:00–8:15 pm	Confirmation Classes, Ministry Center
7:00–9:00 pm	Finance Committee, Cana
7:15–8:30 pm	Middle School RE at All Saints Academy

Tuesday, November 16

4:30–5:45 pm	RE at St. Thomas, Ministry Center
7:00–9:00 pm	INSIGHT, Senior Center
7:00–9:00 pm	PPC, Cana
7:00–9:00 pm	Voices of Faith, Church

Wednesday, November 17

9:15–11:15 am	Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center
4:30–5:15 pm	Joyful Jammers, Cana
7:00–9:00 pm	Pro-Life, Judea

Thursday, November 18

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, November 19

Saturday, November 20

8:30–9:45 am	Middle School RE at All Saints Academy
9:00–10:30 am	Saturday Men's Group, Cana
9:00 am–2:00 pm	Blood Drive, Gym
3:30–4:15 pm	Reconciliation, Reconciliation Room

Sunday, November 21

4:30–5:15 pm	Confirmation Class, Lighthouse
4:30–5:45 pm	Journey 1, Senior and Youth Centers
7:00–8:15 pm	Confirmation Classes, Gym and Lighthouse
7:00–8:15 pm	Journey 1, Senior and Youth Centers

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

October 31, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$18,284
Credit Card Online Giving for October	\$18,104
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$7,786
Total for the week	\$44,174
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$622,471
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$34,582
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$604,251
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$18,220
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	36%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$1,123,129

This week, the Sunday collection is \$18,220 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$257 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

Diocesan Appeal 2021

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,100
Pledges Received	\$158,475
Percent of Goal pledged to date	91.03%
Unpaid pledges	\$2,937
Paid to Date	\$155,538
Percent of goal paid to date	89.34%

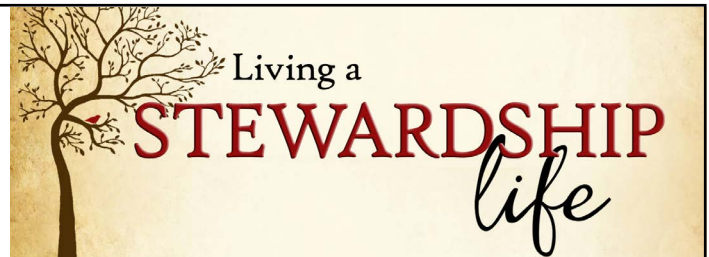
Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God.

1Peter 4:10

The word "steward" comes from the Old English word *stigweard*, meaning the one who manages the hall. He was the one who managed the estate, who collected the rents and kept the accounts. In other words, he was the one who kept things running for the lord and master. If he did a good job the estate would flourish. A bad job would cause the lord to lose his holdings.

We, as Christians, take it a step further. Our responsibility is not just to the Lord, but to each other. We take our gifts of time, talent and treasure and use them for the benefit of others. In fact, as Peter writes, we must do that. As Bishop Hicks stated in his message to the RCIA candidates last week, God is generous to us and that builds a relationship of trust. It is from that relationship that we, in turn, become generous to each other.




So, how have you been generous lately with your gifts? How have you used your gifts for the benefit of others?



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