

St. Thomas

NOVEMBER 21, 2021 — OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



**My kingdom
does not belong
to this world**

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

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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

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Anne Schultz, *OSJ Partner*, x113, aschultz@stapostle.org

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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 Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

There is a difference between hearing and listening. Hearing is basically a physical function that involves the ears. On the other hand, listening is more of an internal process that uses the ears, but also involves the mind and heart. A couple of years ago, I was at a luncheon with a group of retired priests. For more than twenty minutes, the priests at my table discussed which hearing aid was the best. I sat there quietly as they discussed which ones felt more comfortable in the ear and which ones canceled out

background noise. I thought to myself, "One day, I too will be addressing these same issues in my life." Toward the end of their discussion, one priest wisely added, "No matter how good these hearing aids are, they do very little to help us listen better ... that part is up to us!"

His point was well-taken. We can have the best hearing in the world, but it takes real attention and effort to be a good listener, too. Some people seem to have a natural gift to listen well. Nevertheless, you have probably encountered some people in our society who prefer to monologue instead of dialogue. To dialogue, one must embrace the humble position of not only speaking but listening, too.

Our Holy Father has asked that the Church begin a process of "listening." It is called the "Synod on Synodality." In creating the opportunity for listening and dialogue on the local level through this Synod, Pope Francis is calling the Church to rediscover its deeply synodal nature. This rediscovery of the synodal roots of the Church will involve a process of humbly learning together how God is calling us to be as the Church in the third millennium.

In other words, the entire people of God, not just the Diocese of Joliet, will enter into a process of "listening" to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Church. Obviously, we need to listen to the Word of God in Scripture and to the living tradition of the Church, and we also need to listen to each other as we discern the signs of the time.

Specifically, to foster a Church that is synodal, the Holy Father has asked us to focus on communion, participation and mission. Recently, Pope Francis wrote, "The Holy Spirit needs you. Listen to Him by listening to yourselves."

I have heard officials in the Church refer to this Synod on Synodality as a worldwide "listening tour" that begins at the local Church to discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us as to what the Church should be. In the Diocese of Joliet, our "listening tour" began with an inaugural Mass at our Cathedral on October 17. People from all over the diocese gathered as we launched this desire to listen to one another. We will continue to offer listening sessions that include our many councils and boards — such as the presbyteral council, pastoral council, women's council, etc. — as well as leaders of Hispanic ministry, religious orders, Catholic schools and religious education. Their comments will be collected, and a report will be sent to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. After that, there are timelines in which further discussions, drafts and findings will be collected at continental/regional assemblies. This synod process will then conclude with bishops and lay Catholics gathering in Rome in 2023 to discuss the themes and findings from this worldwide listening tour.

There are many people who are already wondering if this Synod on Synodality will lead to any changes in the Church. That is yet to be seen. However, as our society continues to become more polarized with often a preference of monologue over dialogue, this process of listening with open minds and hearts will hopefully give us the opportunity to not only hear one another but also to learn from, empathize with and love one another more deeply. Veni, Sancte Spiritus!

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 27–28

Saturday, November 27

4:30 pm: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal with Deacon Jim Breen

Sunday, November 28

8:00 am: Fr. Matt Lorenz

9:30 am: Fr. Bob Colaresi with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

11:15 am: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

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!

New Parishioners

Sean and Theresa Weeks and Family

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.

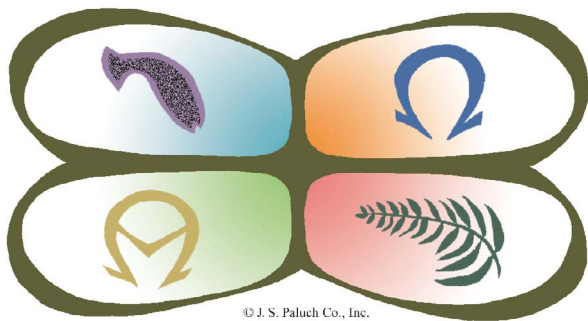


Church Office and Building Hours

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



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 21, 2021

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth.
— Revelation 1:5

Readings for Today

First Reading — One like a Son of man received dominion, glory and kingship (Daniel 7:13-14).

Psalms — The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty (Psalm 93).

Second Reading — Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead (Revelation 1:5-8).

Gospel — For this I came into the world, to testify to the truth (John 18:33b-37).

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

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Dn 3:52-56; Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Dn 3:57-61; Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Dn 3:62-67; Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Dn 6:12-28; Dn 3:68-74; Lk 21:20-28
Thanksgiving Day, Suggested: Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

Friday: Dn 7:2-14; Dn 3:75-81; Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27; Dn 3:82-87; Lk 21:34-36

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14; 1 Thes 3:12 — 4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

Monday, November 22, 2021

St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

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

Tuesday, November 23, 2021

St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St. Columbian, Abbot; Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest and Martyr

8:30 am †Leopoldo Petilla, by Your Niece, Anne

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

8:30 am †Raymond Courney, by Family

Thursday, November 25, 2021

Thanksgiving Day

9:00 am Gratitude for the People of St. Thomas

Friday, November 26, 2021

8:30 am †Mary Gowney, by John Gowney

Saturday, November 27, 2021

8:30 am †Patricia McCullough, by Larry and Susan Kearney

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Freda Burg, by The Lucado Family

†James Joseph Philpott, by John and Beth Dobby

Sunday, November 28, 2021

First Sunday of Advent

8:00 am †Jocelyn N. See, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

9:30 am †Christine Margaret Gosciniak, by Edmond Goschen and Family

11:15 am †Thomas Dougherty, by Larry and Susan Kearney

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King: Reflecting on God's Word

Understanding today's feast of Christ the King may be particularly challenging. While most of us do not have direct experience with kings or royalty, we have a sense of who they are. We know that royalty have sovereignty over their kingdoms. We know that those who are subjects to royalty offer them allegiance and honor. To understand how Christ is our king, we extend and magnify what we know to be true of the best of human royalty. Christ's kingship extends to all places, all people and all times. Christ manifests his kingship through his death on the cross in which he offered salvation to everyone. Those who can see with eyes of faith recognize Jesus to be our heavenly king.

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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.

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

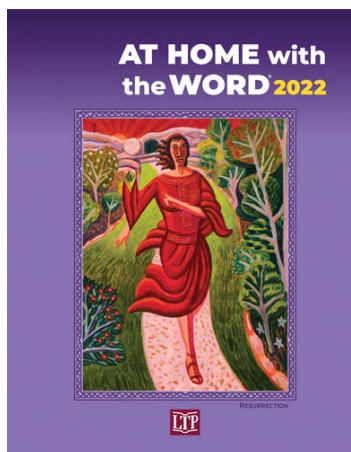
The *At Home with the Word* book is a great tool for breaking open the Sunday Scriptures at home; helping you to reflect further on God's Word and preparing to celebrate the Sunday Liturgy. Commentaries about the readings assist in comprehension and a deeper dive into the Sacred Scripture.

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

Regular Print: \$9.00

Large Print: \$13.00

Check or exact cash ONLY.



Prayer

*How wonderful a King, Lord God,
you have given us in Jesus your Son:
neither a monarch throned in splendor
nor a warrior bent on revenge,
but a shepherd who seeks and rescues the flock,
bringing them back, binding them up,
strengthening them and feeding them with justice.*

*Prepare us for the Day of Christ's coming in glory,
by shaping our lives according to his teaching
that what we have done
for the least of his brothers and sisters
we have done for him,
the Christ who was,
who is, and who is to come,
your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.*

Amen.

Immaculate Conception – December 8

Wednesday, December 8 at 8:30 am and 7:00 pm St. Thomas will celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a Holy Day of Obligation and it also offers the opportunity to celebrate the patronal feast of our country

Advent Taizé Prayer

St. Thomas will have a Taizé prayer service on Monday, December 6 at 7:00 pm in the church. Come begin the Advent Season with this unique style of peace-filled, meditative prayer.

Advent Reconciliation — December 15

St. Thomas will have an Advent Reconciliation Service Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 pm. The opportunity for individual confessions with a Priest will conclude the service.

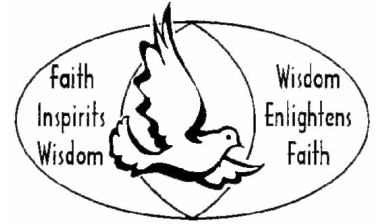
Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

In the month of November on our Church calendar, we honor in a special way those saintly role models who have gone before us. We have many examples of holy people who stepped up right away to continue the mission that Jesus began.

The apostles of course picked up where Jesus left off and continued to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God as he had done. Peter and John provided healing to a crippled beggar (see Acts 3:1-10). Barnabas shared his wealth by selling property in order to help fund the work of the apostles (see Acts 4:36-37). Seven men were appointed as deacons in order to tend to the needy of the new Christian community in Jerusalem. Stephen was among those seven and ultimately gave his life for the cause, becoming the first Christian martyr.

Paul, after his conversion, was joined by the likes of Barnabas, Timothy, Silas and John Mark to become missionaries and take the faith beyond the borders of Israel. Aquila and Priscilla, a married couple, met Paul in Corinth and became partners with him in Christian evangelism. It seems that they risked their necks for Paul, which Paul wrote about in his letter to the Romans. Various other co-workers of Paul are named in Romans 16 and Colossians 4:7-17. In all of these people, we see faith in action and the willingness to live their lives according to their Christian beliefs.



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.



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

True Gratitude

Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds.

—Theodore Roosevelt

A Thankful Heart

A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the other virtues.

Harvest Sunday—by the Numbers

Harvest Sunday is possible because so many volunteers are willing to pitch in and help as evidenced by the following numbers:

- 46 neighborhood routes
- 10,000 Harvest Sunday flyers
- Over 300 parishioners volunteered their time to help with distributing flyers, collecting food from neighborhoods and from Casey's, and sorting, packing and boxing the food
- Over 3,809 bags of food collected and boxed into 1,110 boxes
- 3 food pantries received the food collected
- A million 'thanks' to all that had a part in making this happen!!! You are truly the hands and feet of Christ!

However, Harvest Sunday is more than how many bags of food we receive or how many boxes we pack. There are real people ... people in our neighborhoods, people we see at church, people whose children go to school with our children who receive food. And to those people, you made a world of difference! Thank you so much.



News from All Saints Catholic Academy 2022-2023 Enrollment at All Saints

We are busy preparing to welcome new students and families to All Saints for the 2022–2023 school year. Registration will open for all grade levels — preschool through grade 8 — on Sunday, January 30 at our Annual Open House, which will be held in person this year.

Open House details and sign up links will be shared in our parish bulletins, on our website and social media as we get closer to the event.

In-person tours will be available through December 10 as follows:

- Preschool through grade 8 on Tuesdays at 9:30 am
- Grade 1–8 on Thursdays at 1:00 pm
- All grades on Mondays after school at 4:00 pm

To schedule a tour, please contact Patty Bajek at pbajek@ascacademy.org, or call the school at 630.961.6125.

We currently have waiting lists at several grade levels for this current school year and expect classes for next year to fill quickly. Please save the Open House and registration opening date on your calendar so that you will not be disappointed.

All Saints offers a generous Tuition Transfer Grant for students entering grades 1–7 who are making the move from public school to ASCA. The grant gives students \$1,000 off their tuition in year one, and \$500 off tuition in year two.

All are welcome, and you will feel warmth, acceptance and the feeling of family and home from the moment you visit All Saints.

If you are looking for a school where:

- faith is important, and woven into of every part of your student's day;
- the bar is set high for all students with respect to academics;
- and the values that are important to your family are shared.

Then please prayerfully consider a move to All Saints Catholic Academy this coming fall for your child(ren) and family. We look forward to meeting you soon!



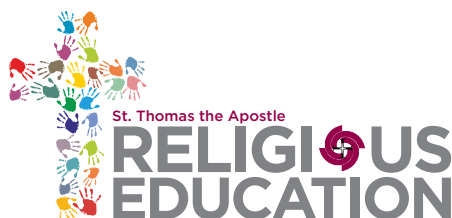
Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

First Reconciliation Required Make-Up Parent Enrichment Session is Now November 29 — RSVP Needed

First Reconciliation Required Make Up Parent Enrichment Session is only Monday, November 29, 2021, at 7:00 pm in the church.

Parents who have a child receiving their First Reconciliation in the spring need to attend. Only one parent, who desires to have their child receive First Reconciliation, need attend. Parents who have already attended a session for an older child need not attend.

Please RSVP to the Faith Formation Office at REAdmin@stapostle.org or 630.305.6318. The session will cover “Theology of Reconciliation” by Father Danaher and “Preparation for Reconciliation” by Lorraine Katz.



Important Dates for Elementary RE Classes

December 4, 11 and 18

Saturday Elementary RE classes meet

November 30 and December 7, 14 and 21

Tuesday Elementary RE classes meet.

Important Dates for Middle School RE

December 4, 11, 18

Saturday Middle School RE classes meet.

November 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.

Parents Only Zoom with Lorraine for Family Advent Activities

Lorraine Katz invites you to join her on Zoom to explore ideas for celebrating Advent/Christmas in your home. Hop online Tuesday, November 30 from 7:15–7:40 pm. See inside your child's folder for meeting ID and passcode or contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980.

Children's Liturgy of the Word — Volunteers Needed

Would you like to have some fun while teaching children about our Sunday's Gospel? Volunteers are needed for the Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:30 am Mass for children Pre-K through fifth grade. For more information or to volunteer, contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109.

Attention High Schoolers!

Are you looking to fulfill your volunteer service hours? The Elementary Religious Education Program would love your help. Friendly faces are welcome. No experience needed. Hours are flexible in December and January using your skills for filing assistance and replenishment of school supplies. We are also looking for greeters for monthly First Eucharist Prayer Services starting in January. Contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109 to schedule some time.

Volunteers Needed for the Christmas Eve Pageant

St. Thomas young people in elementary and middle school are invited to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant. Narrators, Mary, Joseph, an innkeeper, angels, shepherds and a very special baby are needed to help proclaim the story of the birth of Jesus at the 4:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Practices will be held Wednesdays December 8, 15 and 22, from 4:30–5:15 pm. Costumes are provided. Contact Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org if interested in being a part of this special St. Thomas tradition.

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 show that we honor Jesus as a King?



Thanksgiving

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion into clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.”

~Melody Beattie

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.



Keeping Christ in Christmas

Take a break from the hectic pace of the holidays and gather with others who seek to keep their focus on the true meaning of the season. Join us for a Zoom version of Keeping Christ in Christmas on Thursday, December 2 from 6:30–7:15 pm. This will be a time of prayer, sharing and refreshments. In addition, each family will start an Advent activity which can be continued each day of Advent. Those families who register for this special evening will be asked to pick up their Advent activity packet at St. Thomas. The activity packet will include what you need to join in prayer and our Advent activity as well as the Zoom link for the meeting. Email Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org or Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org by November 30 to register.

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, McDonald's, 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.

Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest

The Knights of Columbus organization is inviting St. Thomas students in the parish ages 5 through 14 to participate in the organization's international Keep Christ in Christmas poster contest.

The contest will be conducted locally with winning entries advancing to the district/region and then to state, national and international levels. The winning entries may serve as the basis for a series of new Christmas posters that encourage a deeper understanding of the holiday. The posters will be distributed in the countries where the Knights are active. There will be monetary prizes for the winners in each age category (ages 5–7, 8–10 and 11–14).

Posters must reflect the theme of Keep Christ in Christmas and should be approximately 11x17 inches. Entries are due Wednesday, December 1.

Please contact Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x123 for more details

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!



Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice



Thanksgiving Message

Thank you, the people of St. Thomas, for the countless ways you raise awareness; provide resources; and model the hands, feet and heart of Jesus. May you, your families and your loved ones be blessed in abundance.

~Mike, Anne and Sally

Thanksgiving Prayer

Creator God, we ask that you move us beyond the poverty of mindless consumption to the abundance of your Church's social teachings. We ask that you move us beyond our impoverished need of material things to the richness of solidarity with our brothers and sisters throughout our country and around the world. We ask that you move us beyond the empty drive to store up individual possessions to recognize the wealth of working for the common good. Grace us to consider the human dignity and the rights as well as needs of everyone in our local, national and global communities without counting the cost, knowing that, as we have read in the recounting of distribution of the loaves and fishes, there is always enough for everyone to come to the table. We thank you for this abundance. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Jane Deren, Education for Justice, a project of the Ignatian Solidarity Network.



Dawn and Jim Eber with PwC food donations

Harvest Sunday Results Thank You, St. Thomas

Harvest Sunday was one of the most successful ever!

Over 300 parishioners volunteered their time to help with distributing flyers, collecting food from 46 neighborhoods and from Casey's Foods, and sorting, packing and boxing the food. Many other parishioners delivered drive-thru donations, and still others ordered from Amazon.

Over 3,809 bags of food were collected, sorted and boxed into 1,110 boxes. Forty percent of the food was shared with the Sisters of Notre Dame from the south side of Chicago; 40 percent with St. Patrick's in Joliet (Fr. Dof's parish); and 20 percent to our Care Pantry.



Youngest Harvest Sunday Volunteer

Harvest Sunday Stories

There are always special stories on Harvest Sunday

- A box of Milk Bone dog treats was donated.
- Three bottles of alcohol were donated, including Jose Cuervo Margaritas (ready to drink)!
- A mom returned after delivering bags from her route with one package of brownie mix. It fell out of one of the bags her family collected. She said, "My children wanted me to make the brownies, but I told them, they had been donated for a family in need." A learning experience.
- Dawn Eber challenged her PwC co-workers to support Harvest Sunday. They responded with \$5,000 in donations, which Dawn spent at Costco. (*see picture above*)

We are very grateful to all the parishioner volunteers for their hard work and good spirit. Thanks to Tom Lapka who spent many hours this summer reorganizing the neighborhood routes for this year. Thanks to the Middle School Youth who taped hundreds of boxes in preparation for packing. Special thanks to our Care Pantry volunteers, led by Michelle Hunt and Chris Sehgal, who again put in some long days. And thank you, St. Thomas, for the remarkable response!

Mike, Anne, Sally (Outreach & Social Justice Office), Peggy (Middle School Faith Formation Office)

Turkey Drive This Weekend November 20–21

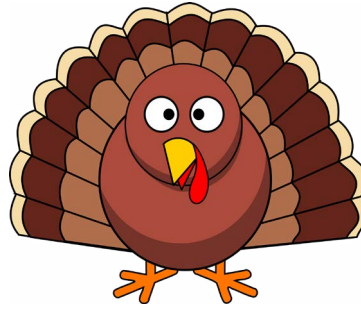
The truck will be in front of the church from 4:00–6:00 pm on Saturday, November 20 and from 7:30 am–12:30 pm on Sunday, November 21.

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. St. Thomas has since 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.

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. Members of the Racial Justice Focus Team presented the survey results at all Masses last weekend.

Complete Survey Results on Website

The survey results talk and the complete survey report are available on the St. Thomas website home page at 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.

Hesed House PADS December Food Donation Sign-Up

St. Thomas Hesed House PADS Ministry serves the homeless at Hesed House in Aurora the first Thursday of every month throughout the year. The ministry prepares and serves dinner and breakfast ... and provides a bag lunch.

We are once asking parishioners to donate the food items needed each month. Thanks to all those that helped with November donations. We are now asking for donations for the first Thursday in December.



How to donate food for Hesed House

If you are willing and able to provide food for December, you can sign-up on the St. Thomas website at stapostle.org for specific items. If you enjoy cooking, you can sign up to prepare the entrée or the dessert. Recipes and pans are provided. If cooking is not your greatest gift, there are many other items needed. Please deliver all items to the St. Thomas Gathering Area on Thursday, December 2 before 4:00 pm. Thanks to all who are able to help.

Art Fair Virtual Silent Auction Results

New this year to the Art Fair was a virtual silent auction conducted on the St. Thomas website. The good news is that all five of the offered items had “winners” (i.e., bids were received.) A total of \$686 was raised to benefit St. Nicholas Catholic Church, our “twinning” parish in Aurora. They will use the funds for the St. Nicholas School of Faith religious education program for the youth of the parish.

Special thanks to Casey Braun, St. Thomas Communications Coordinator, for special efforts on short notice to provide the silent auction capability on the website.

Service Commission — Pastoral Care

Simple Prayer of Gratitude

Thank you, Lord for the blessings that you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who always look out for me. You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions. They lift me up in ways that keep my eyes focused on you and make my spirit soar.

Also, thank you, Lord, for keeping me safe. You protect me from those things that seem to haunt others. You help me make better choices and provide me with advisors to help me with life's difficult decisions. You speak to me in so many ways so that I always know you are here.

And Lord, I am so grateful for keeping those around me safe and loved. I hope that you provide me with the ability and sense to show them every day how much they matter. I hope that you give me the ability to give to them the same kindness they have provided to me.

I am extremely grateful for all of your blessings in my life. Lord, I pray that you remind me of just how blessed I am and that you never allow me to forget to show my gratitude in prayer and returned acts of kindness.
Thank you, Lord.

*By Kelli Mahoney
Remembering Others*

From the Office of the Parish Nurse Top 5 Causes of Falls

Did you know that more than 1 in 4 older adults will fall each year in the United States? And those who have fallen once are twice as likely to fall again?

The chances of falling and being seriously injured during that fall significantly increase with age. Identifying risk factors with your aging loved ones and taking precautionary measures will increase their longevity and provide peace of mind to families.

Here are five causes of falls, according to BrightStar Care:

1. Impaired vision — Cataracts and glaucoma alter depth perception, visual acuity, peripheral vision and susceptibility to glare.

What's the solution?

- Add color and contrast to identify objects, such grab bars and handrails.
- Have your vision and hearing checked each year or any time you notice a change.

2. Home Hazards — Most homes are full of falling hazards.

What's the solution?

- Remove or fix things you could trip over, such raised doorway thresholds, throw rugs or loose carpet.
- Add grab bars in the bathroom.
- Keep paths clear of electrical cords and clutter.
- Use nonskid floor wax and wipe up spills right away.
- Keep your house well-lit. Use night lights in hallways and bathrooms.
- Put sturdy handrails on stairways.
- Store things on lower shelves.

3. Medication — Many drugs (i.e. sedatives, anti-depressants) reduce mental alertness, affect balance and gait and cause drops in systolic blood pressure while standing. Mixing certain medications increase these effects, causing falls.

What's the solution?

- Know the side effects of the medicines you take. For instance, sleeping pills and some medications for anxiety can affect your balance.
- If you take two or more medicines, talk to your doctor about how they work together. Sometimes combinations of medicines can cause dizziness or sleepiness.

4. Weakness, low balance — weakness and lack of mobility leads to many falls.

What's the solution?

- Exercise regularly to boost strength and muscle tone.
- Wear low-heeled shoes that fit well and give your feet good support.
- If you use a walker or cane, make sure it is fitted to you.

5. Chronic conditions — Parkinson's, heart disease and other conditions increase the risk of falling.

What's the solution?

- Enlist specially trained caregivers
- If you live alone, think about wearing an alert device that will bring help in case you fall and can't get up. Or carry a cordless or cell phone with you from room to room.

Resources: CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/homeandrecationalsafety/falls/adultfalls.html>); BrightStar Care



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE
St. Thomas the Apostle

From the Behavioral Health Ministry Take a Free, Five Minute Health Aware Test

Our assessments provide a quick analysis of your mental health and suggested next steps if you are found to be at risk. Mental health disorders are highly treatable; yet many struggle in silence. In just five minutes, you can gauge your risk and learn how to seek treatment that may improve your emotional and physical well-being.

Learn – take the free confidential assessment and learn if you are at risk.

Listen – if eligible, accept the free clinical screening where you'll learn what steps to take to improve your health.

Live Healthy Driven – follow the clinical recommendations and visit your doctor for a longer, healthy-driven life.

Take an assessment today at www.EEHealth.org



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
St. Thomas the Apostle

Living Well with Mental Health Issues

As we learn more and more about the connections between the mind and body, it becomes clear that spirituality, religion and faith can help some individuals live well with mental health conditions. Some individuals and families turn to faith in times of crisis to help in their recovery while others find that spiritual practices help them continue to manage their mental health.

How Faith Can Help

Some people find that religion and individual spirituality have a positive impact their physical and mental health.

Meditation

One practice that has received a lot of attention is contemplative prayer and meditation. Many people have found that 10-20 minutes of meditation is beneficial to their mental well-being. Other have found relaxation through other contemplative practices. The daily ritual prayers of Islam and the Catholic practice of praying with rosary beads, for instance, are religious rituals that can invoke a meditative response.

Togetherness

Religion offers other supports for mental health as well. One of the most popular ways to interact with the community is to attend congregational gatherings such as Sunday church, Saturday Torah readings, prayer meetings or full-moon celebrations at Hindu temples.

These group religious rituals provide structured social activities that cause relatively little anxiety and benefit our health directly. Places of worship may also offer a number of resources and social activities that can encourage and support people living with a mental health condition and their families, providing additional benefits through community connections

A Sense of Understanding

For some, the most important aspect of religion is that it offers ways to understand our experiences. The major world religions each offer explanations of why suffering exists in the world. Turning to these explanations brings comfort to many people confronting illness. The "why me?" question can never be answered entirely by medical science, and some people find the answers they seek in religion.

Helping Others

Volunteering and participating in our communities can have positive impacts on our health and well-being. Most religious organizations provide opportunities to help others, which can improve our mood and reduce anxiety.

Remembering Others

Oh, God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;

When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;

When I have a home, help me to remember
those who have no home at all;

When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,

And remembering, help me to destroy my
complacency; bestir my compassion,

And be concerned enough to help;

By word and deed,

Those who cry out for what we take for
granted.

Author Unknown

source Jesuit Resource, jesuitresource.org

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

Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, November 22

7:00–8:15 pm Confirmation Class, Ministry Center
7:00–8:15 pm Journey 1, Senior and Youth Centers

Tuesday, November 23

7:00–9:00 pm Voices of Faith, Church

Wednesday, November 24

Thanksgiving Holiday
Offices Closed

Thursday, November 25

Happy Thanksgiving!
Offices Closed

Friday, November 26

Thanksgiving Holiday
Offices Closed

Saturday, November 27

9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Cana
3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Reconciliation Room

Sunday, November 28

thank you

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

Let them know they are appreciated!

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

November 7, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$15,384
Credit Card Online Giving	reported monthly
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	\$20,972
Mailed in and stock donations	\$6,174
Total for the week	\$42,530
<small>*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation</small>	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$665,001
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$35,000
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$637,820
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$27,181
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	38%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$1,080,599

This week, the Sunday collection is \$27,181 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$467 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

Diocesan Appeal 2021

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,100
Pledges Received	\$158,630
Percent of Goal pledged to date	91.11%
Unpaid pledges	\$2,609
Paid to Date	\$156,021
Percent of goal paid to date	89.62%

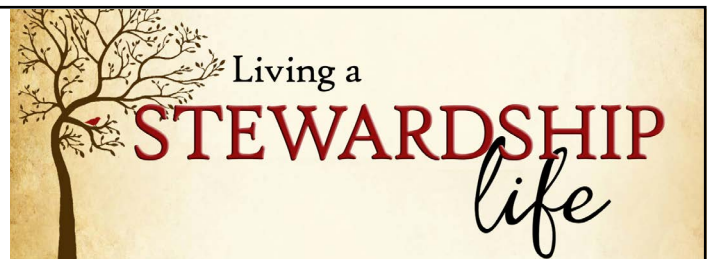
Share your food with the hungry and open your homes to the homeless poor. Give clothes to those who have nothing to wear, and do not refuse to help your own relatives.

Isaiah 58:7

As we approach Thanksgiving, we should be reminded of the blessings we have been given. We will be able to sit down and have a meal, hopefully with others. Some are not as fortunate. Hesus House in Aurora is a place that does what we are told to do in Isaiah. Every day they provide a safe place for the homeless to spend the night and provide a warm meal. St. Thomas helps with that mission.

Every month, on the first Thursday, we are responsible for helping to provide that meal. It takes volunteers and you can help. Our next turn is Thursday, December 2. Just turn to the bulletin or the website and sign up to provide a part of that meal. You can donate something as easy as a gallon of milk or you can use your talent to prepare a casserole or dessert from the recipe provided. It is a perfect opportunity to use our time and talent to share the gifts that God has given us.




Blessings to all at this Thanksgiving and throughout the year.



Checked These Listings Lately? Thank You to Our Advertisers!

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