

*St. Thomas*



*Third Sunday of*

*Advent*

December 12, 2021

# 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  
Jim Clauer, *Director of Liturgy and Music*, x111, jclauer@stapostle.org  
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  
Mary Derwinski, *Administration Asst.*, x143, mderwinski@stapostle.org  
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

# in the word



with  
fr danaher

Dear Parish Family,

John the Baptist's teaching in today's gospel sounds much like what Jesus would later teach in Matthew's gospel just before His death and resurrection. John encouraged those who had two cloaks to share with someone who doesn't have any. Those who had food were called to share with the hungry. In Jesus' teaching, He praised those who

took care of the hungry and the naked, along with the thirsty and those in prison, because "whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sister of mine, you did for me." Though there is some similarity to the teachings of John the Baptist and Jesus, the difference is that Jesus identified Himself with those in need, that when you give your extra cloak or food to someone in need, you have given to Jesus.

We already believe in our Lord's close relationship with us through our belief that He became one of us. As we approach our celebration of His human birth, maybe we could take some time to look at our close relationship with each other. Does our relationship with others make visible our relationship with Jesus?

*After more than 20 years of loving and faithful service to our St. Thomas the Apostle Parish community, our Director of Pastoral Care, Jan Olah, is retiring, effective December 15. Over the years, Jan has developed spiritual care both within and outside of our parish; or as Jan says "no walls when it comes to ministry." Jan has always been honored to help in any way in others' times of need. Out of that came the development of many ministries, along with amazing ministers. We wish Jan all the best. We thank God for sharing His life and love with us through Jan.*

In the Word,

*Fr. Danaher*

## 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 December 18–19

### Saturday, December 18

4:30 pm: Fr. Philip Danaher

### Sunday, December 19

8:00 am: Fr. Bill Etheredge

9:30 am: Fr. Bill Etheredge

11:15 am: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal 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 [cseaskme@gmail.com](mailto:cseaskme@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



## Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

*With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.*

— Isaiah 12:3

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

**Psalm** — Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12).

**Second Reading** — Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God (Philippians 4:4-7).

**Gospel** — John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely (Luke 3:10-18).

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:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc-9; Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday:** Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday:** Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Ps 85:9-14; Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday:** Is 54:1-10; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b; Lk 7:24-30

**Friday:** Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4ab, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

**Saturday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

**Sunday:** Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

## Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

### Monday, December 13, 2021

*St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr*

8:30 am †John Sheen, by Audrey Easton

### Tuesday, December 14, 2021

*St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

8:30 am †Gail Ruhnke

### Wednesday, December 15, 2021

*Advent Weekday*

8:30 am †Anne Battisto, Battisto Family

### Thursday, December 16, 2021

*Advent Weekday*

8:30 am †Joanne Woodfork, by Family

### Friday, December 17, 2021

*Late Advent Weekday*

8:30 am †A Very Special Intention, by Audrey Easton

### Saturday, December 18, 2021

*Late Advent Weekday*

8:30 am Glordenia San Buenaventura, by Mayoralgo Family

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Bob Pattermann, by Kay and Dick

†Jim Wolff, by Mary Ann

### Sunday, December 19, 2021

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

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

9:30 am †Jerry Johnson, by Mom and Dad

†Dave Anderson, by Kathy and Bear Ferguson and Family

11:15 am †Thomas Dougherty, by Gerry and Maureen Deneen

## Reflecting on the Readings ...

Today we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, meaning rejoice in Latin. As we face the week, pray to the Spirit to free you from any anxiety, worry or sadness that might dampen the good news that we are called to share. Your prayer might even be a simple refrain from today's second reading, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: REJOICE!" (Phil 4:4) Like the crowds surrounding John the Baptist in today's Gospel, we may say, "What should we do?" (Luke 3:10). John's answer holds true today: Share with others, act justly and be satisfied with what we have. Only then can "Emmanuel" truly be, as the name means, "God with us."



# St. Thomas

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT 2021

A few upcoming Advent events are listed below. For a complete listing and more details, check out the advent brochure on the St. Thomas website.

### Advent and Christmas Prayer

#### Lessons & Carols

This year, we are not able to celebrate Lessons & 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.

#### Mid-day Meditation

Join in Mid-day Meditation around the Mary statue in the church to ponder with her the wonder and blessing of the incarnation. Offered at 12:00 pm on Tuesdays December 14 and 21.

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, December 15

7:00 pm | Church

Beginning in the Church with a communal liturgy of reconciliation, this advent offering also provides the opportunity for individual confession with parish and guest priests.

### The Advent Wreath A Guide for History, Assembly and Blessing

#### History

During the Church season of Advent, one of the main symbols is the wreath. The Advent Wreath is a symbol used in many Christian traditions, in churches and in homes. The various rituals and traditions that surround the Advent Wreath are what make it such a beautiful symbol of the season.

For the Catholic Church to adopt a liturgical act or religious symbol into praxis, it is essential to add theological significance to make it a part of the liturgy. With that in mind, each element of the wreath has a theological reason associated with it.

With the wreath as a symbol of Advent in not only the Catholic tradition, but also many other Christian traditions; making the wreath a symbol of ecumenical hope and joy for the coming of Jesus Christ.

#### Assembly

*Each component in the Advent Wreath has a significance:*

Circular shape	God's infinite love; cyclical seasons
Evergreens	Eternal life of Christ
Candles	Increasing light in our darkness
Holly	Crown of Thorns; suffering endured for us
Berries	Precious Blood of Christ, spilt for us
Garlic	Ancient protection from the forces of Evil
Pomegranates	Abundance of creation; fertility and growth of the Church
Artichokes	Boundary of protection from physical enemies
Cinnamon	Royal spice, recalling our baptism as Priest, Prophet, and King
Lavender	Sweet fragrance of life, simple beauty

#### Blessing

Extending your hands in blessing over the Advent wreath, pray:

*Lord our God,  
We praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:  
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,  
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,  
he is the Savior of every nation.*

*Lord God,  
let your blessing come upon us  
as we light the candles of this wreath.*

*May the wreath and its light  
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us  
salvation.*

*May he come quickly and not delay.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

*May the light of Christ lead us to the joy of the  
kingdom, now and for ever.  
Amen.*



You are invited to make a donation toward the Christmas Environment/Flower Fund in recognition of a loved one. The names of these individuals will be on a display board at the Christmas Masses. A suggested donation of \$10 per name (exact change or check made payable to St. Thomas the Apostle) should be sent in with the order form. The completed form and payment should be placed in an envelope, to the "Attn of Flower Fund" and can be mailed in, brought in through Door A during the building open hours or placed in the offertory collection basket. **Orders must be received by Sunday, December 19.**

## Christmas Environment/Flower Fund

*I would like to make a contribution*

In Honor of:

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

By:

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PHONE #

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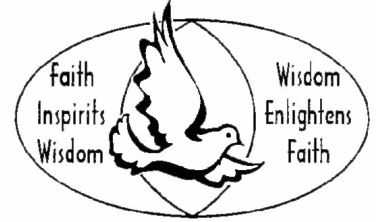
*Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, December 19.*

# Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

## C.A.R.E. CORNER

St. Lawrence was likely born around the year 225. He became one of seven deacons in the city of Rome, most likely ordained by Pope Sixtus II in the year 257. It was a time of great persecution of Christians. Pope Sixtus was martyred under the Emperor Valerian in 258. As a deacon, Lawrence was charged with

the responsibility for managing the material goods of the Church, especially with regard to the distribution of alms to the poor. After Pope Sixtus was put to death, Lawrence expected to be arrested. So Lawrence began to distribute the money he could access to widows and orphans before it could be confiscated by Roman authorities. The prefect in Rome believed the Christian Church had great wealth and treasures like silver cups and gold candlesticks. So he commanded Lawrence to bring the treasures of the Church to the Emperor. Lawrence requested three days to assemble the wealth.



Lawrence spent those days going out to the streets and gathering the blind and the lame, the orphans and the widows, the lepers and the poor. Lawrence then presented the group to the prefect, telling him that these were the true treasures of the Church. As you can imagine, the prefect was not amused. As the story is given to us by St. Ambrose, Lawrence was promptly strapped to a gridiron and slowly burned over an open fire of coals. Legend has it that at one point he requested being turned over because he was well done on the one side. One might expect that St. Lawrence is the patron saint of the poor and of deacons. But interestingly, he is also the patron saint of cooks.

### Patient Trust

*Above all, trust in the slow work of God.  
We are quite naturally impatient in  
everything  
to reach the end without delay.  
We should like to skip the intermediate  
stages.  
We are impatient of being  
on the way to something  
unknown, something new.  
And yet it is the law of all progress  
that it is made by passing through  
some stages of instability —  
and that it may take a very long time.*

*And so I think it is with you;  
your ideas mature gradually —  
let them grow,  
let them shape themselves,  
without undue haste.  
Don't try to force them on,  
as though you could be today what time  
(that is to say, grace and circumstances  
acting on your own good will)  
will make of you tomorrow.*

*Only God could say what this new spirit  
gradually forming within you will be.  
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing  
that his hand is leading you,  
and accept the anxiety of feeling  
yourself in suspense and incomplete.*

*~ Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ  
excerpted from Hearts on Fire*

### Mid-day Meditation

It's so easy to get caught up in the bustle and anxiety of preparing for the holidays, especially as we continue to navigate a pandemic-shaped world. Take time to breathe deeply and rest a bit in the peace of Christ and his Blessed Mother. Mid-day meditation will be offered for one-half hour at noon on Tuesdays December 14 and 21 at the Mary statue in the church. Ponder with her the wonder and blessing of the Incarnation, God-with-us.



### Praying Advent

In contrast to the household and commercial hustle and bustle of Christmas preparation, the season of Advent calls us to slow down, to listen, to wait — to pray. Here are a few ways to do just that:

- Pick up a Little Blue Book of 6-minute daily Scripture reflections and Catholic lore. They are available in the Narthex and Gathering Area. A \$1 donation is suggested.
- Visit the Gathering Area Reading Rack to check out books and magazines relating to the season. A self-checkout book is available there.
- Nourish your soul at lunchtime with Tuesday noon meditations for a half-hour at the Mary statue in church.
- Check out online resources. Some recommended ones are:  
Advent: One Prayer A Day at <https://onlineministries.creighton.edu>  
Advent Prayers from Catholic Online at [www.catholic.org/prayer](http://www.catholic.org/prayer)  
An Online Advent Calendar for Adults at [www.loyolapress.com](http://www.loyolapress.com)

# Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

## Important Dates

### Elementary RE

**December 11 and 18**

Saturday Elementary RE classes meet.

**December 14 and 21**

Tuesday Elementary RE classes meet.

### Middle School RE

**December 11, 18**

Saturday Middle School RE classes meet.

**December 13**

Monday Middle School RE classes meet.

## 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.



St. Thomas the Apostle

**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

## Pre-K and Second Grade Mass

Pre-K and second grade families are invited part of a special Mass December 12 at 11:15 am. Please remember to see your catechist or host greeter after Mass for a surprise from St. Nicholas. The children have been learning about the Mass. A child from each class will be contributing by being part of the entrance procession and some have donated food items for the Care Pantry.

We thank the Pre-K and second grade coordinators Kataryna Williams and Cheryl Kaspar; the catechists Kataryna Williams, Jaime Staab, Janet Bailey, Melissa Ernst, Lauren Wierzbinski and Zoraida Zorate; and aides Liliana Ernst, Laura Kmec, Vanessa Lemes, Nahliya Wehr, Martyna Woznica and Cuauhtemoc Zarate. These individuals have been sharing their faith and teaching the children in the Pre-K and second grade classes.

## Kid's KARE

St. Thomas youth and families ... would YOU like to make someone's Christmas a little brighter? **YOU CAN.** Do an extra chore in your home to help your family, then together purchase a gift card from Meijer, Target or Walmart for \$10, \$20 or \$25 to donate to a Care Pantry family. By sharing and helping others, we are Jesus to others. Please drop all gift cards to the Church – Attention Anne – by Saturday, December 18.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x109 to schedule some time.

## Question of the week ...

Today is joyful Sunday.  
How will you bring joy to others this week?





## The Gift of Catechists and Volunteers

Middle school religious education at St. Thomas happens because of a dedicated group of catechists and volunteers.

### These volunteers include our catechists:

Mary Wright, Julie Krupa, Darlene Dionne-Karales, Mary Szczap, Amy Duran, Tanya Galer, Karen Spratt, Sean Elliffe, Giada Colvin, Elizabeth Colvin, Loula Fernandez, Jen Kennedy, John Kennedy and Tim Berglind

### And dependable substitute catechists:

Gina Howley, Janet Kirkman, Chris, Baker and Ryan Fee

There are also volunteers who are willing to work behind the scenes to ensure our programs run smoothly.

### These volunteers include:

Bernard Salzig, Carolyn Vondran and Nidhi Thomas Mani.

Thanks to all of these 'ministers' for sharing the gifts of their time and talent with St. Thomas middle school students. Their dedication is a gift to the whole St. Thomas community.



## ADVENT-ure, an Advent Playlist

The season of Advent encourages us to slow down and ponder ... to ponder Christ's first coming in the miracle of Christmas ... to ponder Christ's second coming at the end of time. Yet, often, Advent is anything but quiet and relaxed. This playlist is full of ideas to help you or your family have meaningful Advent time. Check out the Advent playlist on the St. Thomas website.



## Teens with Character

Middle school students ... Teens with Character will meet on Sunday, December 12, from 4:30–6:00 pm at St. Thomas. Bring your face mask 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!



## Stay Connected to St. Thomas

[stapostle.org](http://stapostle.org)

Follow St. Thomas on Facebook

Download the St. Thomas App for your phone

# Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice



## PATH December 14 Zoom Meeting Celebrate Success ... Alumni Homecoming

Join this special celebration to honor the 50 PATH Group members who have successfully secured employment during 2021 and have become PATH Group Alumni members. Recognizing the value of paying it forward, a number of these PATH group members will return to share their experiences and insights to help you activate your own job search initiatives.

The meeting will be an 'open forum,' allowing you to truly engage with these Alumni members and learn their 'Secrets to Success.' The Alumni will share the following information:

- What was learned from the job search experience (key takeaways).
- What strategy or tactic was most successful in securing their new position.
- What they would have done differently in their job search.
- What advice would they offer job seekers on the journey.

Register in advance for this webinar by emailing Fred Johnson at fred.c.johnson50@gmail.com. Once you have registered for the event, you will receive the Zoom meeting information in a confirmation email.

## Racial Justice Team Formation Call to Action

"Who is my neighbor?" Jesus' second commandment does not tell us to love our neighbors who are like ourselves. It tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves, recognizing the dignity and inherent value in each individual. Jesus reached out to the marginalized of His time and that is our direct call to action.



## New Year — Continuing Challenges

We are engaging the ongoing racial justice challenges with the formation of a new Racial Justice Team. We ask all to prayerfully consider being a part of the new team. The primary requirements are a passion for racial justice and a willingness to take action.

The team will develop and offer activities and opportunities that people may participate in, if they wish, fostering conversation and identifying common ground.

The new team will meet in January to outline:

- The scope to be addressed
- Goals for the year
- A strategy to meet those goals

After the meeting and following prayerful discernment, those wishing to continue will make the one-year commitment.

If you have an interest and would like to attend the January formation meeting — or if you have questions, contact Mike in the OSJ Office at 630.355.8980, x121 or mryder@stapostle.org.

## Door Is Closing

*The St. Thomas Housing Alliance Ministry has been advocating for more affordable housing in Naperville for at least four years. The Alliance has been working with the Naperville Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission and City Council.*

While there has been some progress on providing more affordable housing in Naperville, it has come very slowly. The Housing Alliance has influenced that progress. The article below was written by Jane French, a freelance writer, nonprofit administrator, caregiver and long-time advocate for older adults. The Housing Alliance is quoted in the article.

### Why the Door Is Closing on Affordable Housing in One Midwestern Community

The "One Midwestern City" is Naperville. Jay Mitchell, a member of the Housing Alliance is quoted in the article ... see below. To read the entire article, click [here](#).

*Jay Mitchell, a member of the DHA and a board member of the HOPE Fair Housing Center, a nonprofit dedicated to eliminating housing discrimination across Illinois, puts it this way: "Concerned citizen groups, affordable housing developers, nonprofit organizations and consultants, specializing in helping municipalities move forward with affordable housing, have all made themselves available to Naperville's city council and staff. Everything necessary to start creating a more inclusive and affordable Naperville community exists, but city leadership apparently lacks the political will to do so."*



## Care Pantry Christmas Gift Cards

There is no Care Pantry Christmas Party again this year. As done last year, we will collect gift cards. Cards will be distributed to our Care Pantry families at the drive-thru food distribution on Tuesday, December 21.

Please consider donating gift cards to Meijer, Target and Walmart in denominations of \$10, \$20 and \$25. This will give us the most flexibility when we divide the cards among the Care Pantry families. Gift cards are due no later than Sunday, December 19. Drop the cards off at church or send them to: St. Thomas the Apostle, ATTN: Anne, 1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville, IL 60563

Or, consider making a cash donation to purchase gift cards. Make checks out to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Christmas Gifts" in the memo.

May you and your loved ones experience moments of Light and Hope during the Advent Season.

## Christmas Ham/Turkey Collection

**Next Weekend — December 18–19**

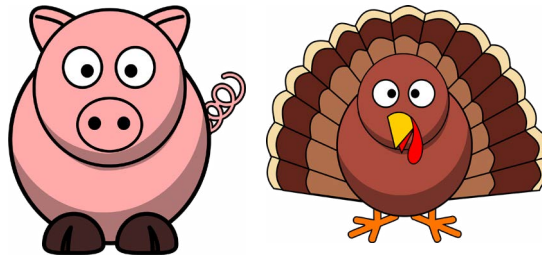
*Take home a reminder card this weekend!*

Next weekend is the annual Christmas ham/turkey collection for Care Pantry families. Hams/turkeys are shared with St. Nicholas Pantry, St. Patrick Parish in Joliet-where Fr. Dof is the pastor, and the Marie Wilkinson Pantry in Aurora. This year's goal is 850 hams/turkeys. The truck will be in front of church until about 12:30 pm next Sunday, December 19.

As you purchase your ham or turkey, be in solidarity with the family that will receive it ... and say a prayer wishing them a blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

If you forget your ham/turkey, you can make a donation at the collection truck and one will be purchased for you! Thanks for all that are able to help.

If you know of a family in need of help for food or other emergency financial support, please contact the OSJ Office at [aschultz@stapostle.org](mailto:aschultz@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x113.



## A Hesed House Christmas Story

**By Ryan Dowd**

*St. Thomas Hesed House PADS Ministry serves the homeless at Hesed House in Aurora the first Thursday of every month throughout the year.*

Ryan Dowd is the Executive Director of Hesed House. He wrote a Children's Book entitled *A Homeless Christmas Story*. It is a hope-filled read for adults, as well as children. <https://youtu.be/RWGALq7wZw>



## Haiti Twinning The Gift of Education

Throughout Advent season, Haiti Twinning is offering a Haitian Christmas card along with a picture of a Duchity student that you might send to your family and friends, perhaps in lieu of a gift. The gift of education to the children of Duchity is a gift that will last a lifetime.

A donation of \$50 is suggested, but any amount is welcomed. The goal is \$30,000 (\$11,350 collected to date). A Christmas card(s) with a picture(s) of a Duchity student will be mailed to you or you can pick one up at St. Thomas. Contact the OSJ Office.

- Checks can be made to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Haiti DEF" in the memo and mailed to St. Thomas OSJ (1500 Brookdale Rd, Naperville, 60563)
- Checks can also be placed in the Haiti Christmas Card baskets in the Narthex and Gathering Area after Mass or during the week. Student pictures are also available there.
- To make an online donation, go to <https://osvhub.com/stapostle/funds/haiti-twinning-education-sponsor-a-child>.

## Charity with Solidarity

For 21 years, St. Thomas, has helped build three schools, including a high school, and has helped support those schools in our Haiti Twinning village of Duchity. Education has made a difference. More than 95 percent of the children now pass the state tests. (The country average is less than 50 percent.) That improvement is directly due to the help St. Thomas provides to subsidize the salaries that guarantee quality teachers. The doctor and one of the nurses in the Duchity healthcare clinic are graduates of St. Thomas high school.

# Service Commission — Pastoral Care



## Blood Pressure Screening

Blood Pressure Screening is available after the 9:30 and 11:15 am Masses this Sunday, December 12.

The screening sites are the first office on the right (Deacon's office) and the second office on the right (Parish Nurse Office) as you enter the WEST WING of the Church. No appointment or doctor's order needed.

## 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.

Call Diane McQueen in the General Office at 630.355.8980, x101 to schedule an appointment with the Parish Nurse, Felicia Lawlor, at a convenient time for you or during a Blood Pressure weekend Mass.

## From the Office of the Parish Nurse The World Health Organization Warns of Very High Risk Posed by the Omicron Variant

The World Health Organization is warning that the new omicron variant of the coronavirus poses a "very high" global risk because of the possibility that it spreads more easily and might resist vaccines and immunity in people who were infected with previous strains.

In a technical brief issued, the WHO warned its 194 member states that the new variant's numerous mutations "may confer immune escape potential and possibly transmissibility advantage," and as a result "the likelihood of potential further spread of omicron at the global level is high."

It says that the risk to vulnerable populations — especially in countries with low vaccination rates — could be "substantial." However, it cautions that there's still considerable uncertainty about the virus, including how easily it spreads, how dangerous it is, whether it can evade vaccines and immunity, how it responds to diagnostic tests and therapeutics, and even its specific symptoms.

"The vaccines were designed, basically, to keep people out of hospital, and they've stood up and they've done that very well," Dr. Margaret Harris, a public health doctor and WHO spokesperson, told NPR's Morning Edition on Monday. "So we really need to know whether this particular version is going to change that picture."

The omicron variant was first reported in South Africa, where infections attributed to the new strain have risen sharply in recent days. Since then, it has been found in more than a dozen countries.

So far, there have been no reported deaths linked to the omicron variant. Meanwhile, many countries including the U.S. have re-imposed some travel restrictions in an effort to stem the spread of the new variant.

The WHO warned of possible "future surges of COVID-19, which could have severe consequences, depending on a number of factors including where surges may take place."

The brief advises nations to enhance surveillance and sequencing efforts and accelerate COVID-19 vaccination coverage. It also advises renewed social distancing restrictions and contact tracing.

"In anticipation of increased COVID-19 caseloads and associated pressure on the health system, ensure mitigation plans are in place to maintain essential health services and necessary health care resources are in place to respond to potential surges," it advises.

General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director of WHO, said: "Omicron demonstrates just why the world needs a new accord on pandemics," he said, noting that the new variant's emergence shows how "perilous and precarious" the current situation is.

Resource: <https://npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021>



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE  
St. Thomas the Apostle

## Pastoral Care Resources

For Spiritual Support and Prayer, please contact the following individuals if you are in need of assistance:

### Counseling

Jan, Pastoral Care Office  
630.355.8980, x124  
Diane, General Office  
630.355.8980, x101

### Health Resource

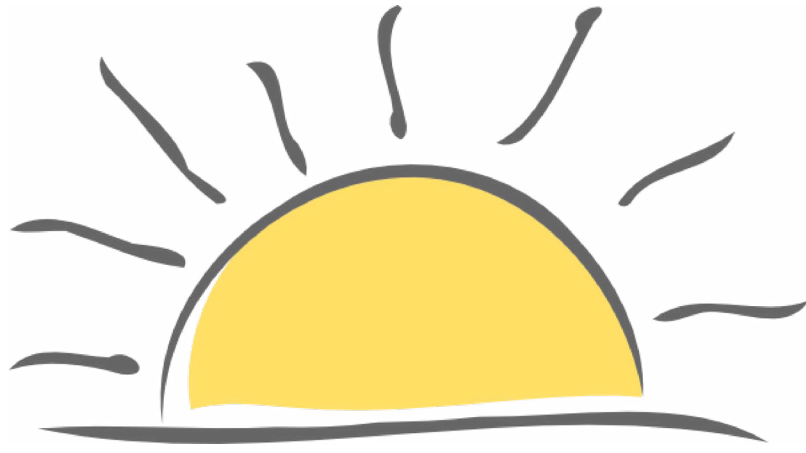
Parish Nurses  
Felicia, 630.355.8980, x104  
Jan, 630.355.8980, x124

### Hospital/Pastoral Care Info

Edward Hospital has a pastoral care department with a Catholic Chaplain for an emergency anointing or a Eucharistic visit.

### St. Thomas Pastoral Care Visit

Jan, Pastoral Care Office  
630.355.8980, x124  
Diane, General Office  
630.355.8980, x101



**From the Behavioral Health Ministry**  
**Comfort My People — From Darkness into Light**  
**A Prayer Service for Healing**

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

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



**Comfort My People — From Darkness into Light**

Wednesday, January 5, 2022

7:30 pm

St. Thomas the Apostle Church  
1500 Brookdale Road  
Naperville, IL. 60563

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

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

## The Lamp of Love

*Heart of Love,  
Source of all kindness,  
Teacher of the ways of goodness,  
you are hidden in the pockets of daily life,  
waiting to be discovered.*

*Heart of Gladness,  
Joy that sings in our souls,  
the Dancer and the Dance,  
you are Music radiating in our  
cherished caches of consolation.*

*Heart of Compassion,  
the Healing One weeping  
for a world burdened and bent,  
you are the heart we bring  
to the wounded, worn and weary.*

*Heart of Comfort,  
Sheltering Wings of love,  
Refuge for sad and lonely ones,  
you embrace all who bear loss,  
gathering their tears with care.*

*Heart of Understanding,  
One who gazes upon the imperfect,  
the incomplete, the flawed, the weak,  
you never stop extending mercy.*

*Heart of Generosity,  
Abundance of insight and hope,  
daily you offer us gifts of growth,  
leading to continual transformation.*

*Heart of Deepest Peace,  
Center of tranquility,  
Resting Place at the core of our being,  
you are waiting always for our return  
to this sacred home.*

# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, December 13

4:30–5:15 pm	Youth Choir, Cana
6:15–8:30 pm	Knights of Columbus, Galilee/Emmaus
7:00–8:15 pm	Confirmation Class, Ministry Center
7:00–8:15 pm	Journey 1, Senior and Youth Centers
7:15–8:30 pm	Middle School RE at All Saints Academy

### Tuesday, December 14

12:00–12:30 pm	Advent Meditation, Church by Mary Statue
4:30–5:45 pm	RE at St. Thomas
7:00–9:00 pm	INSIGHT, Zoom
7:00–9:00 pm	Voices of Faith, Church

### Wednesday, December 15

4:30–5:30 pm	Christmas Pageant Practice, Church
4:30–5:15 pm	Joyful Jammers, Cana
7:00–8:00 pm	Advent Reconciliation, Church

### Thursday, December 16

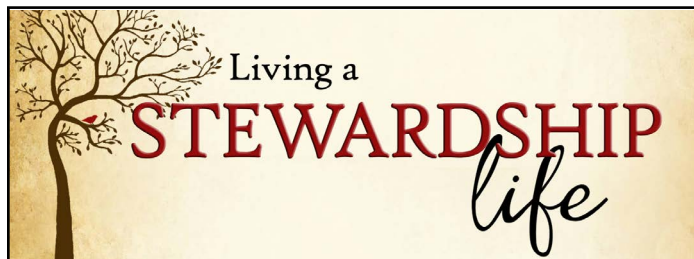
9:15–11:15 am	Thursday AM Bible Study, Lighthouse
10:00 am–12:00 pm	Prayer Shawl Ministry, Emmaus
6:30–8:00 pm	Life Retreat Planning, Gym
7:30–9:30 pm	Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

### Friday, December 17

### Saturday, December 18

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

### Sunday, December 19



*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*  
Matthew 6:21

What Jesus is reminding his followers in this passage is to get our priorities straight. What is it that you feel is important? What do you value?

During this time leading up to Christmas, we are inundated with requests for sharing our treasure with a myriad of organizations and companies, from department stores to charitable organizations. Where is your treasure going? What is important to you? If we must choose, is our treasure going to help those less fortunate? Is our treasure (or talent or time) going to help others? Where is your heart?

We are winding down our Catholic Ministries Annual Appeal for 2021. This Appeal helps programs in our Diocese like Catholic Charities and supporting our Deacons. If you have not yet given, please consider sharing your treasure. CMAA is a good place to share your heart.

### Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

#### Weekly Sunday Offertory

November 28, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$12,721
Credit Card Online Giving	reported monthly
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$8,309
Total for the week	\$21,030
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$750,318
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$34,105
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$738,529
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$11,789
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	43%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$995,282

This week, the Sunday collection is \$11,789 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$80 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

#### Diocesan Appeal 2021

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,100
Pledges Received	\$160,235
Percent of Goal pledged to date	92.04%
Unpaid pledges	\$1,550
Paid to Date	\$158,685
Percent of goal paid to date	91.15%

### Smart Moves in Giving to St. Thomas

Some parishioners receive tax benefits from gifts to St. Thomas by donating stock or directing their IRA distributions to St. Thomas. Consult your tax adviser or broker/agent to see if these smart moves are right for you. We appreciate your support!

thank you




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

**Let them know they are appreciated!**

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

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

**SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY**

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<p><b>ONE PARISH</b></p> <p>Grow in your faith, find a Mass, and connect with your Catholic Community with OneParish!</p>  <p>Download Our Free App or Visit <a href="http://www.MY.ONEPARISH.com">www.MY.ONEPARISH.com</a></p>		<p><b>Esser Hayes Insurance Group Inc.</b> Insurance is Our Only Business Since 1939 With Excellent Companies &amp; Competitive Rates 1811 High Grove • 355-2077</p>	<p><b>Naper Auto Works</b> <i>Your One Stop Shop Since 1977</i></p> 	
			<p>320 N. Mill St. Naperville, IL 60540 <b>(630) 420-2886</b></p>	

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

**GREAT COVERAGE - 97%** of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.

**GREAT VALUE - 70%** of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.

**GREAT LOYALTY - 41%** of households do business with a company specifically because they are advertising in the church bulletin.

**GREAT PRODUCT - 62%** of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.

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