

*St. Thomas*



*Fourth Sunday of*

*Advent*

December 19, 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  
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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

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

### 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

Frank Szymanek, *Service* Susan Wood O'Leary, *Finance*  
Cheryl Kaspar, *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,

I like to think of today's gospel story of Mary visiting her relative Elizabeth as the very first Christmas greeting from the woman who helped make Christmas possible.

When the angel Gabriel told Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of Jesus, Gabriel also told her that Elizabeth, who was in her 70s and childless, would soon give birth to a child. After Mary said "yes," she traveled to Elizabeth's home, a rather long distance of about 70 miles when you think of how difficult it was to travel in those days, to see for herself the blessing which God had shared with Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, I believe that Elizabeth also heard in her heart the greeting of the Christ child from the body of His mother, the Christ child who lived with us to greet us with the very good news of God's devotion to us.

In these troubling times for many, let us keep our hearts open to the greeting of the Christ child. May you and those you love have a very Merry Christmas.

In the Word,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Danaher". The script is cursive and somewhat stylized.

## Holiday Office Hours

St. Thomas offices will be closed December 23–26, 30–January 2. There will be limited hours on the other days during the holidays. Please call ahead. Regular office hours resume January 3.

## 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 25–26

### Saturday, December 25

9:00 am: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

11:00 am: Fr. Philip Danaher

4:30 pm: No Mass

### Sunday, December 26

8:00 am: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

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

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

*For December 25–26, the Sunday, December 26 9:30 am Mass will be livestreamed.*

*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

Mr. and Mrs. Nick Kukulski

Alexandra Thomas and Grigori Onica and Family

William and Lordina Samore and Family

## Would you like to become a parishioner?

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

## 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



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## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

*O LORD of hosts, look down from heaven and see; take care of this vine, and protect what your right hand has planted.*

— *Psalm 80:15–16*

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — From Bethlehem-Ephrathah shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel (Micah 5:1-4a).

**Psalm** — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

**Second Reading** — We have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Christ once for all (Hebrews 10:5-10).

**Gospel** — Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken by the Lord would be fulfilled (Luke 1:39-45).

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:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

**Tuesday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

**Thursday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66

**Friday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

**Saturday:** Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;

Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

## Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

### Monday, December 20, 2021

*Late Advent Weekday*

8:30 am †Bill Feder, by Family

### Tuesday, December 21, 2021

*St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church*

8:30 am †David Madden, by Ellie Bond

### Wednesday, December 22, 2021

*Late Advent Weekday*

8:30 am †William Raef, by Battisto Family

### Thursday, December 23, 2021

*Late Advent Weekday*

8:30 am †Frank Treski, by Steven Miller

### Friday, December 24, 2021

8:30 am †Those that are Homeless

*Christmas Eve*

4:00 pm †Jenni Anderson, by Mom, Dad and Kerri

†Bill and Griffin McCarthy, by Family

4:15 pm †Florence Patterman, by Dick and Kay

7:00 pm †Tim Updike, by Mom and Dad

10:00 pm Expectant Mothers

### Saturday, December 25, 2021

*The Nativity of the Lord*

9:00 am †Jesusa Poblacion, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

†Dorothy Mehok, by Lisa and Larry Hjorth

†Dorothy Siroky, by Lisa and Larry Hjorth

11:00 am The Families of St. Thomas Parish

*No 4:30 pm Mass Saturday, December 25*

### Sunday, December 26, 2021

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

8:00 am Thomas Morgan, by Phyllis Issler

9:30 am †Paul Gillerlain, by Mary Ann MacCarthy

†Ruth Gayol, by Fernando

11:15 am †Heather Sheehan, by Phyllis Issler

## Reflecting on the Readings ...

Today's readings speak to us about living as a family and a community. They confirm that both require work, generosity, patience and openness to the unexpected. We look to the Holy Family as a model for ourselves, and we learn — with some relief — that Jesus' parents were as challenged and confounded as we often are. We can be like them because they were like us in so many ways.



# 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. The last Mid-Day Meditation will be offered at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, December 21.

### Christmastide Mass Schedule

#### Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

##### Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

4:00 pm Mass | Church\*

4:15 pm Mass | Gym

7:00 pm Mass | Church

10:00 pm Mass | Church\*

##### Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25

9:00 am Mass | Church

11:00 am Mass | Church

#### Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday, December 26

8:00 am Mass

9:30 am Mass\*

11:15 am Mass

No 4:30 pm Mass Saturday, December 25

#### Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God *(not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)*

Friday, December 31

4:30 pm Mass

Saturday, January 1

10:00 am Mass

#### Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 2

8:00 am Mass

9:30 am Mass\*

11:15 am Mass

No 4:30 pm Mass Saturday, January 1

*(\*) denotes that liturgy will be livestreamed; Holy Communion distribution in the parking lot for Masses.*

#### With restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, please note the following:

- Face masks are required for all people over the age of 2 regardless of vaccination status.
- Respect social distancing of an arms-length from people not in your household.
- A pew section with a 6-foot social distancing requirement is available.
- Refrain from physical contact with others not in your household. This includes during the Lord's Prayer and the Sign of Peace.



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 #

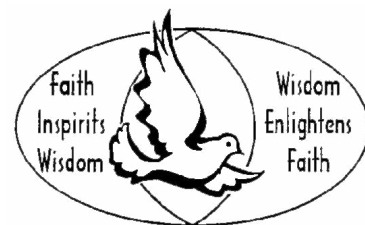
AMOUNT ENCLOSED

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

# Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

## C.A.R.E. CORNER

St. Vincent de Paul was born in France in 1581 into a family of peasant farmers. He grew up herding livestock. But he showed promise as a scholar, so he entered the seminary at the age of 15 and became a priest at the young age of 19. Assignments in various small French villages put him in contact with the poor. And upon hearing the confession of a dying peasant, he had a dramatic change of heart with regard to his vocation. He began to see the face of Christ in the neglected and abandoned and felt an insistent call to help the poor. That calling included rescuing infants who had been abandoned in the wake of widespread war and poverty. At his local parish, Vincent formed a society of women to provide ongoing support for impoverished local families. This was the first parish-based society in France. In 1625 he established the Vincentians to go out into the countryside and preach to the peasants. In 1633, he joined St. Louise de Marillac in gathering young women for active service to the homeless, orphans and the sick. These Daughters of Charity went out into the streets to serve others.



Vincent died in 1660 and eventually became the patron saint of charitable societies. He served as the inspiration for the establishment of a charitable organization dedicated to serving the poor, founded by French University student Frederic Ozanam. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul was established in 1833. That society is now present in over 150 countries. As you likely know, we have an SVDP ministry here at St. Thomas. And this time of the year is a great time to support their efforts to provide basic necessities for those who are struggling due to unemployment, illness, or any other challenges to financial health and independence.

### Prayer

*Creator all-powerful,  
in your wisdom and love,  
your Son, begotten before  
the dawn of time,  
became in time a member  
of our human family.*

*Give to parents the courage  
to journey with their children,  
seeking always the paths  
that you point out.*

*To all of us, daughters and sons,  
give the grace of respect  
for those who nurtured  
and protected us.*

*May we come at last to be sheltered  
in the home you have prepared for us.*

*We ask this through  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Emmanuel, God with us,  
Your Son who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever.*

*Amen.*

### 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 Tuesday December 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)

### Save the Date

Where R U God? If you've ever asked yourself that question, put this date on your calendar:

Men's Virtual Retreat: January 29, 2022, 9:00 am–12:00 pm

How do we deal with these chaotic, stressful and dangerous times? Fr. Bob Colaresi will lead us in the discussion of where we look for and expect to find God. Plan on joining us for this free virtual retreat.

# Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

## Important Dates

### Elementary RE

**December 18**

Saturday Elementary RE classes meet.

**December 21**

Tuesday Elementary RE classes meet.

### Middle School RE

**December 18**

Saturday Middle School RE classes meet.



St. Thomas the Apostle

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## 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.

## 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.

Children's Liturgy  
of the **Word**

## 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 ...

How does the Holy Spirit work in your life and in our Church?





## 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.

## Christmas...

"An ordinary night with ordinary sheep and ordinary shepherds. And were it not for a God who loves to hook an 'extra' on front of the ordinary, the night would have gone unnoticed. The sheep would have been forgotten and the shepherds would have slept the night away. But God dances amidst the common. And that night, God did a waltz." (Max Lucado)

Wishing you a blessing-filled Christmas!



## A BIG Shout Out!

A BIG shout out goes to our St. Thomas middle school and high school young people who helped decorate and fill more than 100 Christmas stockings for Care Pantry families. All of the filling of the stockings would not have been possible without the generous donations of stocking stuffers from parishioners. Thank you so much for your generosity and for helping our young people let their Light shine.



## 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.

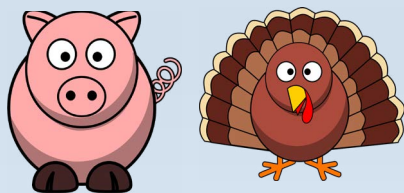
## Teens with Character



Middle school students ...

Teens with Character will meet on Sunday, January 9, 2022, from 4:30-6:00 pm at St. Thomas. Bring your face mask and join us. Games, faith sharing, checking in with each other are all part of the Teens with Character experience. We would love to see you!

# Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice



## Christmas Ham/Turkey Collection

**This Weekend — December 18–19**

This 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 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.

## Racial Justice Team Formation Advent Themes and Martin Luther King

Excerpted from Bishop Sally Dyck's (United Methodist Church) reflection on Advent themes and racial justice, using the following Martin Luther King quotes.

**Hope** – “If you lose hope, somehow you lose that vitality that keeps life moving, you lose that courage to be, that quality that helps you go on in spite of all. And so today I still have a dream.”

**Peace** – “The end of violence or the aftermath of violence is bitterness. The aftermath of nonviolence is reconciliation and the creation of a beloved community.”

**Joy** – “Those who are not looking for happiness are the most likely to find it, because those who are searching forget that the surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.”

**Love** – “I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.”

Working for racial justice is part of our Christian discipleship, challenging and changing our own hearts as well as others.

### 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.

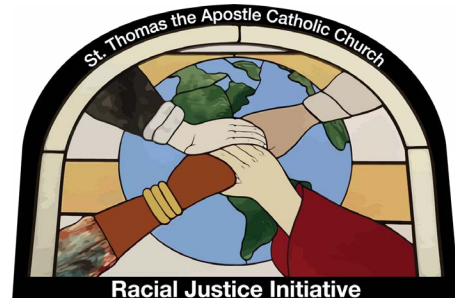
The team will develop and offer activities and opportunities, fostering conversation and identifying common ground.

The new team will meet in January to outline:

- The scope to be addressed,
- Goals for the year, and
- 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](mailto:mryder@stapostle.org).



## Christmas Swaddling Project

The St. Thomas Pro-Life Ministry is again sponsoring its Swaddling Project to support area pregnancy centers. Usually, swaddling bags are distributed with a list of needs and the bags are returned to St. Thomas full or even overflowing. With the pandemic still upon us, please donate gift cards. They will be given to three area pregnancy centers (Waterleaf in Aurora, Birthright of Joliet and Avenue Women's Center with six offices-including Naperville, Glen Ellyn and Darien). Please be as generous as you are able to support young pregnant women in need.

Consider donating gift cards to Walmart, Target, Kohl's and grocery stores in denominations of \$10 and \$20 so that the pregnancy centers can easily distribute them to their clients for Christmas. Put the gift cards in the collection baskets at Mass, drop them off at St. Thomas during the week or send to: St. Thomas the Apostle, ATTN: Anne Schultz, 1500 Brookdale Drive, Naperville, IL 60563.

Or, make a cash donation to purchase gift cards. Make checks out to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Swaddling Project" in the memo.

May you and your loved ones experience moments of Light and Hope during the Christmas season.

*St. Thomas Pro-Life Committee*





## Immigration Initiative Ministry Ending Title 42

*We are all familiar with the Christmas Story. According to the Gospel of Luke, Mary and Joseph were required to travel to the town of Bethlehem. "While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room at the inn."*

Refugees are people who would prefer to return home but cannot do so because of persecution. When they arrive at our border, they become asylum seekers. Seeking asylum is legal according to both our domestic law and international law. Until recently, asylum seekers were permitted to remain in the country until their asylum cases were heard.

Currently Title 42 has been invoked. Title 42 is a part of U.S. public health code that allows the government to restrict certain individuals from entering the country during public health emergencies. Title 42 is being used in an unprecedented manner to expel migrants and deny people the chance to apply for asylum in the United States. This is happening under the guise of limiting the spread of COVID-19, despite leading public health officials repeatedly stating that asylum seekers are not a threat to the health and well-being of our country.

Invoking Title 42, migrants seeking shelter in the United States are sent back to places and situations that are not safe. Some are sent back to countries that they have not lived in for years and that cannot handle a large influx of vulnerable people because of longstanding political and economic instability. Some are relegated to tent camps just across the border in Mexico.

The Congregation of St. Joseph has provided more information on the Title 42 situation. To view the entire report, click [here](#).

*This Christmas morning, the time will come for a woman to have her child and she will give birth to her child. She will wrap the child in swaddling clothes on a blanket in a tent, because there was no room in our country. But is there really no room in our country?*



## 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.



## 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



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
St. Thomas the Apostle

## 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.

## From the Office of the Parish Nurse **Here’s to Healthier Holidays!**

Following a healthy dietary pattern is something we strive toward all year — and then the holidays hit.

Suddenly we’re navigating large spreads of decadent dishes and sweet treats that come around but once a year. How can we resist? Fortunately, we don’t have to.

We can — and should — enjoy a little indulgence this time of year, and we can do so without sacrificing good nutrition. It comes down to finding a balance of the holidays’ culinary delights and nutrition. We’ve got the tips, tricks and pointers to keep you on track.

### **Don’t Skip or Skimp**

Though it may seem logical to restrict eating the days before or the day of a holiday feast to make space for indulgence, it’s more likely to sabotage your efforts. Research shows that skipping meals may reduce calorie intake, but it also reduces diet quality, such a lower consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and plant proteins, which may negatively impact health over time. Hunger can also cause a drop in blood sugar, which can make you more likely to overeat at the next meal. Stay true to your regular meal times to keep your body satisfied and cravings at bay.

### **Yes, Please**

The holidays are steeped in food traditions. Enjoy holiday foods as the occasional treats that they are, even when they’re not foods that are part of our regular dietary pattern. Deprivation can lead to overindulgence, so go ahead and agree to a small glass of eggnog or a sliver of pumpkin pie. Savor modest portions of the holiday foods you love. Doing slowly and mindfully while enjoying the company of family and is healthier than punishing yourself with guilt.

### **Veg up**

Add a few plant-based dishes to your holiday table, or if you’re a guest, offer to bring one along. Noshing on radish, cucumber and bell pepper slices dipped in nutrient-rich hummus can be a refreshing alternative to cheese and crackers. Serve plant-based appetizers and sides to compliment, not replace, traditional dishes.

### **Drink Smartly**

Alcohol provides minimal nutrition, yet still has calories and an impact on decision making, especially when it comes to food and drink choices. Limit these beverages in number and strength. Try sparkling water with a splash of 100 percent fruit juice or a few raspberries for color and flavor. If you do imbibe, add non-caloric mixers like mineral water, club soda or seltzers and sip a non-alcoholic drink between cocktails.

### **Stress Less**

Shopping, planning, cooking and entertaining calendar events spike this time of year, along with our stress levels, which can lead to unhealthy eating. Rather than reach for chips or cookies, treat yourself to a brisk walk with a friend, ten minutes with a good book or a short nap to refresh, recharge and get back on track with a healthy mindset and eating goals.

*Resource: Environmental Nutrition vol. 44 Issue 12*



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

## Handling Grief During the 2021 Holidays

### Memorial Candle Lighting Service

*(Adapted from one used by the Joliet Area Community Hospice)*

**Leader:** *We light four candles today in honor of our loved ones.  
We light one for our GRIEF, one for our COURAGE,  
one for our MEMORIES And one for our LOVE.*

**Reader 1:** This candle represents our GRIEF.  
We own the pain of losing our loved one,  
of dreams that go unfulfilled,  
of hopes that evaporate in despair.

*Light the candle – A brief silence is kept.*

**Reader 2:** This candle represents our COURAGE.  
It symbolizes the courage to confront our sorrow,  
to comfort each other,  
to share our feelings honestly and openly with each other,  
and to dare to hope in the midst of pain.

*Light the candle – A brief silence is kept.*

**Reader 3:** This candle represents our MEMORIES  
for the times we laughed together, cried together,  
were angry with each other or delighted with each other.  
We light this candle for the memories of caring and joy we shared together.

*Light the candle – A brief silence is kept.*

**Reader 4:** This candle represents our LOVE.  
The love we have given, and the love we have received.  
The love that has gone unacknowledged and unfelt,  
and the love that has been shared in times of joy and sorrow.

*Light the candle – A brief silence is kept.*

Comforting Heavenly Father, wrap us in your presence in this time of remembrance.

With these candles, help us find YOUR light, a light that will guide us day-by-day, step-by-step, as we try to live fully and wholly.

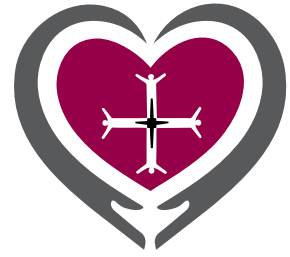
With these rose petals let us remember YOUR love, and the love of all that support us, day-by-day, step-by-step, as we try to live fully and wholly.

We cherish the special ways in which our loved ones have touched us.

We thank you Lord for the gift our loved ones were to us.

Now comfort us. Encourage us. Empower us with your Divine Love. Amen

*Candles can be battery-operated candles, for safety.*



PASTORAL CARE

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 Resource

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

Diane, General Office  
630.355.8980, x101

# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, December 20

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

### Tuesday, December 21

10:00–11:00 am	Care Pantry Food Distribution, Outside
12:00–12:30 pm	Advent Meditation, Church by Mary Statue
4:30–5:45 pm	RE at St. Thomas, Ministry Center
7:00–9:00 pm	Voices of Faith, Church

### Wednesday, December 22

4:30–5:15 pm	Joyful Jammers, Cana
4:30–5:30 pm	Christmas Pageant Practice, Church

### Thursday, December 23

*Offices Closed*

### Friday, December 24

*Offices Closed*

### Saturday, December 25

*Offices Closed*

### Sunday, December 26

## Restricted Gift Policy Effective November 1, 2017

- 1) Notwithstanding restricted donation funds active since July 1, 2015, all individual new-purpose restricted donations exceeding \$500.00, whether solicited or unsolicited, must be approved by the pastor prior to solicitation or receipt/acceptance, whichever is earlier. This provision is effective November 1, 2017.
- 2) Restricted donations will be expended before the second fiscal year-end after the fiscal year of receipt. If the donation has not been expended in accordance with the restriction within two fiscal year-ends, the donated funds will be directed to a related ministry use and notice given to donors where practical. For example, if donations for the purchase of a new musical instrument received in November 2016 (FY16-17) exceed the cost of the instrument, the excess funds will support or supplement music ministry no later than June 2019 (FY 18-19). The funds may continue to be held for the restricted purpose beyond this time if the extended time is approved by the pastor.
- 3) With respect to restricted funds on hand at adoption of the policy, every effort should be made to fulfill reasonable donor expectations that the funds will be expended for the intended purpose within the timeframe described in 2 above. In cases where fulfillment expenditures are no longer practical, permission should be sought from the donor(s) to redirect the funds to a related ministry and expended within the timeframe described above. The pastor may extend the holding period.

Notice will be published in the bulletin and website notifying donors of the new restricted donation and expenditure policy, and thereafter at least semi-annually. Donors of a restricted gift of \$500.00 or more will receive a copy of the policy at the time of the donation.

## Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

### Weekly Sunday Offertory

December 5, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$14,999
Credit Card Online Giving for November	\$17,211
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	\$20,961
Mailed in and stock donations	\$15,467
Total for the week	\$68,638
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$818,956
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$35,607
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$772,098
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$46,858
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	47%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$926,644

This week, the Sunday collection is \$46,858 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$430 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

### Diocesan Appeal 2021

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,100
Pledges Received	\$160,350
Percent of Goal pledged to date	92.10%
Unpaid pledges	\$1,490
Paid to Date	\$158,860
Percent of goal paid to date	91.25%




## Make Year-End Donations Before January 1

Parish families are reminded that year-end donations must be received or postmarked by Friday, December 31 to be counted as a tax deduction for 2021. Thanks for understanding that we must comply with IRS regulations.

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