

St. Thomas

DECEMBER 26, 2021 — THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



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The Holy Family
OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

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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

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Rev. Joseph Kappilumakkal, CMI, *Parochial Vicar*, x103, jkapp@stapostle.org

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Rev. Matt Lorenz, *Senior Vicar*, Archdiocese of Chicago

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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

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,

Let's face it. When adults need help with a computer, DVR, cell phone or other electronic devices, whom do they call first? They call their children, of course. While the phrase "A little child will lead them" from the Book of the prophet Isaiah referred to the coming of the Messiah, many of us can remember times when little children led us with their help.

Today's gospel for the feast of the Holy Family is an example of "a little child will lead them" as we hear the well-known story of 12-year-old Jesus surprising Jewish leaders with His understanding and His questions. The adult Jesus would also surprise people with His words and actions. The people of Nazareth, Jesus' native town, once asked, "Where did He get all this?"

Just as we learned much from our parents when we were growing up, it would have been the same with Jesus. Who's to say that Joseph was not well-versed in the Hebrew Scriptures? Mary's prayer, the "Magnificat," ("My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord . . .") which she prayed during her visit with her cousin Elizabeth, was very similar to the prayer of an Old Testament woman named Hannah, the mother of the prophet Samuel. Like other women of her time, Mary might not have learned to read but she would have heard the scripture in her synagogue and kept God's word in her heart to share later with her Son.

The praise which Jesus received from the Jewish leaders was a compliment to Mary and Joseph, the first to teach their Son about the loving ways of His Father. May parents today follow the example of Mary and Joseph by teaching their children the ways of the scriptures and prayer.

May you and those you love have a very blessed and happy New Year.

In the Word,

Fr. Danaher

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 January 1–2

Saturday, January 1

10:00 am: Fr. Bob Colaresi with Deacon Jim Breen

4:30 pm: No Mass

Sunday, January 2

8:00 am: Fr. Bob Colaresi

9:30 am: Fr. Matt Lorenz

11:15 am: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

For January 1–2, the Sunday, January 2 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

William and Lordina Samore and Family

Alexandra Thomas and Grigori Onica and Family

Matthew and Melisa Zeunert 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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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 26, 2021

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

— 1 John 3:2a

Readings for Today

First Reading — Hannah gives her son Samuel back to the LORD, leaving him in the temple at Shiloh: "As long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD" (1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28) or Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

Psalm — Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord (Psalm 84) or Psalm 128.

Second Reading — We are children of God when we believe in the name of God's Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us (1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24) or Colossians 3:12-21 [12-17].

Gospel — Joseph and Mary find the lost Jesus in the temple in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking questions (Luke 2:41-52).

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

Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

Monday, December 27, 2021

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:30 am †Zenaida Incarnation, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

8:30 am †Tim Updike, by Mom and Dad

Wednesday, December 29, 2021

Fifth Day in the Octave of the Nativity

8:30 am †Vito Battisto, by The Battisto Family

Thursday, December 30, 2021

Sixth Day in the Octave of the Nativity

8:30 am †Pedro and Ines Competente, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

Friday, December 31, 2021

Seventh Day in the Octave of the Nativity

8:30 am †Mary Gowney, by John Gowney

4:30 pm †Joan Schreiner, by Peggy and Richard Kuna

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

10:00 am †The Bartusiak and Madden Families

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 am †Joseph Fedinec, by Former Students

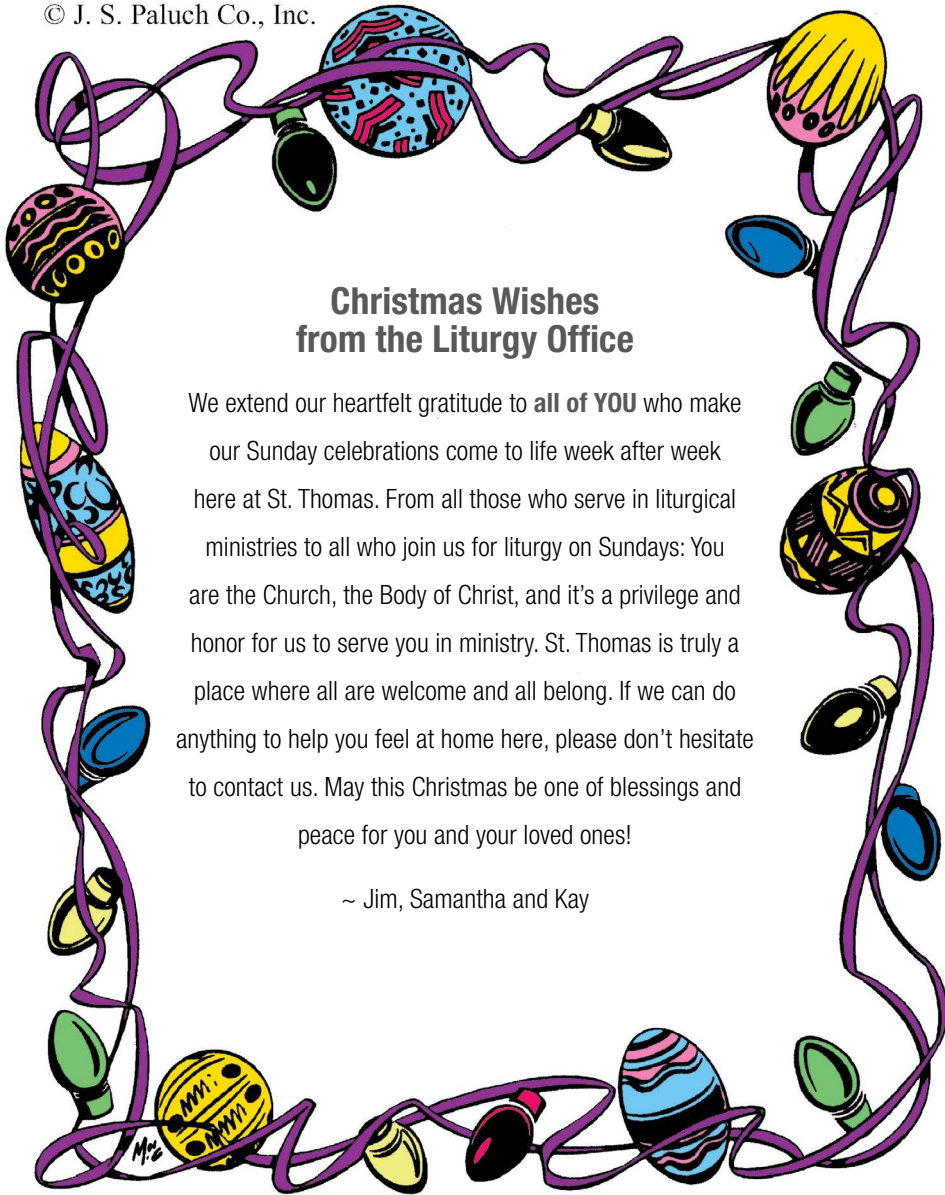
9:30 am Bob and Molly Petersen 30th Anniversary,
by the Petersen Children

†Tim Updike, by Bob and Donna McLoughlin

11:15 am †Adam Knisley, by Joan Rigby

Reflecting on the Readings ...

Today's Gospel reminds us how important human relationships are. Amidst all the travel, preparation, meals and general business, the bonds of human love bind us together. When we consider the holiday season with its pressing demands, let us recall the ultimate reason for our cares and concerns. We have in mind those we love and care for. May the relationships we celebrate this season, especially the relationships we have in Christ, inspire us to live in a meaningful way.



Christmas Wishes from the Liturgy Office

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **all of YOU** who make our Sunday celebrations come to life week after week here at St. Thomas. From all those who serve in liturgical ministries to all who join us for liturgy on Sundays: You are the Church, the Body of Christ, and it's a privilege and honor for us to serve you in ministry. St. Thomas is truly a place where all are welcome and all belong. If we can do anything to help you feel at home here, please don't hesitate to contact us. May this Christmas be one of blessings and peace for you and your loved ones!

~ Jim, Samantha and Kay

Prayer

*The Day is here
and we made it to Bethlehem!
The time has come for kneeling
and we've seen the Child!
There was singing in the stable
and we want desperately to hold on to it ...
hold on to the Star!
and the angels!
and the spirit of love!
How do we hold on
to the Christmas spirit?
Why can't every day be Christmas?
The world mutters
"Be realistic," and sometimes we church
people mutter too.
On our way back from Bethlehem
sometimes we forget
what we've been warned about in a
dream
to return another way.
Once we've seen the Child,
we're left holding hearts
wherein angels dance
and starts sings!
Once we've been to Bethlehem,
Every day is Christmas.
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.
Amen.*

At Home with the Word

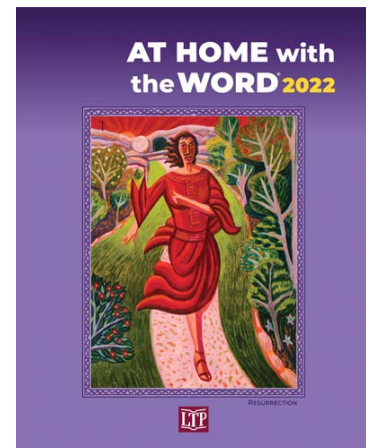
The *At Home with the Word* book is a great tool for breaking open the Sunday Scriptures at home; helping you to reflect further on God's Word and preparing to celebrate the Sunday Liturgy. Commentaries about the readings assist in comprehension and a deeper dive into the Sacred Scripture.

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

Regular Print: \$9.00

Large Print: \$13.00

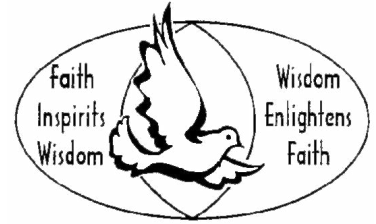
Check or exact cash ONLY.



Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

C.A.R.E. CORNER

When we think of someone who dedicated their life to the needs of the poor, we can't help but think of Mother Teresa of Calcutta. She was born Agnes Bojaxhiu in 1910 and was baptized the next day. She trained with the Sisters of Loreto in Dublin, Ireland, and took her final vows in 1937. At that time, she took the name Sister Teresa. Her order sent her to Calcutta, India, to teach history and geography in a girls school. Eventually she was made headmistress of the school. But on a train ride to Darjeeling in 1946, she received a message from the Lord to work among the poorest of the poor. She obviously took that message to heart. Four years later, she was granted permission from Pope Pius XII to form her religious community, the Missionaries of Charity.



Over the remainder of her life, Mother Teresa founded hospitals, clinics, soup kitchens, orphanages, hospices and schools — all intended to serve the neediest among us. Her order grew to encompass thousands of sisters in over 130 countries. She was awarded a Nobel Peace prize in 1979. Mother Teresa touched the imaginations of people of many religions, cultures and countries. She is considered a true servant of charity of our time — worldwide. Mother Teresa died in India in 1997 and was canonized in 2016. Her life and work remind all of us that it's possible to live a holy life devoted to the gospel of Jesus Christ, even in our day and age.

Save the Date

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

Day of Support for Annulment Petitioners

The Office of Family Ministry, in collaboration with the Joliet Diocesan Tribunal, is once again offering an optional Day of Support for Annulment Petitioners on Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in-person at the Blanchette Center.

This workshop is designed for divorced persons who have already started the annulment process by petitioning the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal, have submitted their Matrimonial Fact Sheet and have a current case in process but have not yet completed the Marriage Summary Long/Questionnaire.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).



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Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed Christmas Season and a very Happy New Year. May you be filled with joy, peace and the light of Christ that shines through the darkness.

The students, families and staff of All Saints Catholic Academy thank you and our parish communities for your continued prayers and generous support.



Open House - Save the Date
Sunday, January 30, 2022 from 1-3 pm

- Meet our teachers, administration, students, parents and school board members.
- Tour our warm, bright and inviting classrooms on a frosty winter afternoon.
- Find out more about how your **preschool - grade 8 child(ren) and family** will benefit from the *superb academics, faith formation, and welcoming school community* at All Saints Catholic Academy.
- Enrollment begins for the 2022-2023 School Year.
- Check out our website at ascacademy.org for more information.



**Catholic Schools
Week 2022**
January 30–February 5
www.NCEA.org/csw #CSW22

Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

Important Dates

Elementary RE

It's Christmas break with Elementary Religious Education Classes. Tuesday's classes will resume January 11, 2022. Saturday's class will resume January 15, 2022.

Middle School RE

It's Christmas break for middle school RE. Monday middle school RE classes will resume January 10. Saturday middle school RE classes will resume January 15.

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**

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.

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 or 630.355.8980, x109 to schedule some time.

Question of the week ...

How can Jesus be born into
your heart this Christmas?



A New Year's Blessing

May your inner vision be transformed so that you can see more clearly your own journey with all humankind as a journey of peace, hope, and bondedness *(Nm 24:15-17; Jn 20:20)*.

May your God be someone you can lean on in your weak or painful moments. May you know God as your rock, your shelter, your strength, your wing of comfort and support *(Ps 94:18)*.

May you be aware of all the places your feet carry you in the new year. May you know "how beautiful are the feet of the messenger of good news" *(Rom 10:15)*.

May you not be afraid of the questions that press upon your mind and heart. May you welcome the questions and wait patiently for the day when they will have their answers *(Mt 11:3)*.

May you be the one with welcome in your smile and hello etched upon your hand, the hand you extend to everyone who blesses you with presence *(Lk 7:36-50)*.

May yours be the gift of reverence for all created things. May you face bravely and enthusiastically the responsibility to preserve and care for the beauty of Earth *(Sir 42:15-43:33)*.

May the wellsprings of compassion flow deep within you until you can taste the tears of your brothers and sisters *(2 Cor 1:3-7)*.

May you awake each morning with thank you on your lips and in your heart, recognizing that all is gift, that all is blessing *(Ps 138:1)*.

May your friendship with God be strong and healthy. May that love be both a comfort and a challenge as you struggle to find your way in the new year *(Jn 21:15-19)*.

May your spirit be open and perceptive in discovering the will of God for you. May your prayer be that of wisdom, guidance, and a deeper understanding of God's way for you *(Lk 1:26-38)*.

May your life this new year be a living legacy to your God.

~ Joyce Rupp in *May I Have This Dance?*
An Invitation to Faithful Prayer Throughout the Year



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.



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

Interfaith Prayer Service Sunday, January 2, 2022

The Naperville Interfaith Leaders Association (NILA) is sponsoring the 18th annual World Peace Day prayer service. St. Thomas is a co-sponsor of the event.

Coming Together for the Common Good to Fill our Community with Love

We acknowledge the continuing divisions in our world that are fueled by fear and hatred, and we recognize many of the existential threats we face: climate change, economic inequality and racism. We note all of the social unrest in response to systemic problems in our country that have gone unaddressed for too long, and we lament the growing inability/unwillingness to move beyond self-interest to work for the common good.

At the same time, the commitment to embrace diversity and inclusion among young people stands as a sign of hope for all of us, as well as the many grassroots organizing efforts to bring people together. In spite of the perceived divisions and the efforts by some to exclude, there are many more people in our community and around the world who are working together ... finding common ground. They are willing to collaborate and cooperate for the common good.

Please join us on Sunday, January 2, 2022, at 2:30 pm in the Wentz Concert Hall on the campus of North Central College in downtown Naperville (171 E. Chicago Avenue).

Racial Justice Team Formation

The Christmas season is upon us and we relive the Christmas story as told in the Gospel of Luke.

And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there were a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

God's favor rests upon all. We are called to give glory to God and to work for peace for all.

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.



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?

Christmas Message from the Outreach and Social Justice Office

The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid: for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

For all the people of St. Thomas and for all the ways the people of St. Thomas have brought joy, compassion and the Light of the Christ Child to those in our midst, we are grateful.

As all gather with family and friends, many we may not have seen since Christmas of 2019, we give thanks for the relationships fostered in our lives.

As all revel in God's creation—the wind, the rain, the sun, the snow — may we be especially present to those affected by the recent tornadoes and all who suffer due to weather extremes.

We give thanks for the gifts of ministering within and beyond our parish doors and of sharing communion with many of our sisters and brothers, both in our three twinning parishes and in the people encountered through the Outreach and Social Justice ministries.

May all continue to be challenged, to be fed and to be beacons of the Light of the Christ Child as we work with gentle and humble spirits toward equality, justice and reconciliation.

May you experience moments of Christmas stillness and moments of New Year's reflection. We send our love and a prayer for peace.

Mike, Anne, and Sally



Haiti Twinning The Gift of Education Christmas Gift

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, click [here](#).

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.

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 **Simple Tips To Protect Your Arthritic Joints**

Adapting your daily routine to relieve pressure on your joints can help you avoid stiffness and pain, and may even prevent joint damage.

Keep moving

Avoid holding one position for a long time. When working at a desk, for example, get up and stretch every 15 minutes.

Minimize the stress on your joints

Avoid positions or movements that put extra stress on joints. For example, opening a tight lid can be difficult if you have hand arthritis. One solution is to set the jar on a cloth, lean on the jar with your palm, and turn the lid using a shoulder motion.

Discover your strength

Use your strongest joints and muscles to your advantage. To protect finger and wrist joints, push open heavy doors with the side of the arm or shoulder. To reduce hip and knee stress on stairs, lead with the stronger leg going up and the weaker leg going down.

Plan ahead

Simplify life as much as possible. Eliminate unnecessary activities (for example, buy clothing that doesn’t need ironing). Organize work and storage areas; store frequently used items within easy reach. Keep duplicate household items in several places.

Use labor-saving items and adaptive aids

In the kitchen, use electric can openers and mixers. In the bathroom, cut down on scrubbing by using automatic toilet bowl cleaners and, in showers or tubs, spray-on-mildew remover.

Make other home modifications

Using casters on furniture can make housecleaning easier. Make sure your bed is at the right height so it is easy to get in and out. Putting a bathing stool in the tub or shower is a good idea for people who have arthritis in the legs.

Ask for help

Achieve a balance by educating family members and friends about your arthritis and the limitations it imposes and enlisting their support. Ask for help with specific tasks.

Adapted from Harvard Health Letter



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE
St. Thomas the Apostle

Be Our Light for the New Year

Come, Holy Spirit,
Spirit of the Risen Christ, be with us today and always.
Be our Light, our Guide, and our Comforter.
Be our Strength, our Courage, and our Sanctifier.
May this new year be a time of deep spiritual growth for us,
A time of welcoming your graces and gifts,
A time for forgiving freely and unconditionally,
A time for growing in virtue and goodness.
Come, Holy Spirit,
Be with us today and always.

- Author Unknown



Prime Time Meetings Moving to Tuesdays in 2022

The PrimeTime Committee would like to wish all of you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. As you may know, PrimeTime is under the umbrella of Pastoral Care, and Jan Olah, our wonderful Director of Pastoral Care, will be retiring in January. We wish Jan a happy, healthy retirement along with our sincere thanks for her commitment to this ministry.

The PrimeTime programs will be moved to the third Tuesday at 10:00 am in the Lighthouse beginning in February 2022. The Committee will be busy in January planning future programs and meeting with Jan's successor.

If you have any program suggestions, please email Carol Ann Fisher at fishercarola4@gmail.com or talk to Linda Bailey, Lynn DeNicolo, Judith Wolcott or Boo Jones.

Again, we wish you a Christmas filled with joyful blessings and a happy, healthy New Year.

Coming in the New Year! Wellspring Presents: Healing and Rebuilding Community Through COVID-19

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 1, 2022, from 7:00–9:00 pm and join us for the Wellspring educational event, Healing and Rebuilding Community Through COVID-19.



The presenter will be Bernadette Beyer, LMFT, LLP, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Limited Licensed Psychologist. She is presently a Pastoral Counselor at Mayslake Ministries and is also in private practice.

The presentation will be held in the Lighthouse at St. Thomas the Apostle. Stay tuned for more details coming soon.

Drenched in Holiness Prayer: Prayer for a New Year

Dear God,

On this day I ask You
to grant this request,

May I know who I am and what I am,

Every moment of every day.

May I be a catalyst for light and love,

And bring inspiration
to those whose eyes I meet.

May I have the strength to stand tall in
the face of conflict,

And the courage to speak my voice,
even when I'm scared.

May I have the humility
to follow my heart,

And the passion
to live my soul's desires.

May I seek to know the highest truth

And dismiss the gravitational pull of my
lower self.

May I embrace and love the totality of
myself,

My darkness as well as my light.

May I be brave enough
to hear my heart,

To let it soften so that I may gracefully

Choose faith over fear.

Today is my day to surrender anything
that stands

Between the sacredness of my
humanity and my divinity.

May I be drenched in my Holiness

And engulfed by Your love.

May all else melt away.

And so it is.

~ Debbie Ford

Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 27

Tuesday, December 28

Wednesday, December 29

Thursday, December 30

Offices Closed

Friday, December 31

Offices Closed

Saturday, January 1

Sunday, January 2

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 12, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$11,786
Credit Card Online Giving (reported monthly)	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$12,455
Total for the week	\$24,241
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$843,197
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$35,133
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$805,668
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$37,529
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	48%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$902,403

This week, the Sunday collection is \$37,529 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$920 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

Diocesan Appeal 2021

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,100
Pledges Received	\$161,300
Percent of Goal pledged to date	92.65%
Unpaid pledges	\$939
Paid to Date	\$160,361
Percent of goal paid to date	92.11%




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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