

# St. Thomas

JANUARY 9, 2022 — THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



**He saved us  
through the bath of rebirth  
and renewal by the Holy Spirit.**

— *Titus 3:5*

# 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

### 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,

There might be some who think that today's feast of the Lord's baptism doesn't make much sense. John's baptism was a baptism for the forgiveness of sins. Jesus was not a sinner. He was God who became human yet never sinned.

In Christian baptism, the baptized are told that they are now children of God. Because Mary and Joseph would have told Jesus about all of the extraordinary events of his birth, He must have somehow figured out that He had a special relationship with God, something which nobody before or since has ever had.

But there is more to baptism than forgiveness of sins or being a child of God. Baptism is also an initiation rite, a kind of "welcome to the club." Through His desire to be baptized, I think that Jesus was telling all those with him that He wanted to continue to be part of that "club." He began his "membership" through His birth and continued that "membership" through His ordinary life in the home of Mary and Joseph. He wanted to do all of the things which He saw his fellow human beings do, one of which was baptism by John.

In his baptism, Jesus was telling His brothers and sisters that He wanted to do all the good things which He saw others do. There was absolutely no logical explanation why He wanted to be human, why He wanted to be baptized, or why He even allowed himself to die.

The only explanation Jesus could give has absolutely nothing to do with logic, but it has everything to do with love. What moved Jesus to join our human family was His love for our God who sent Him to live with us, along with love for the people with whom He wanted to live on earth, and love for all of us with whom He wants to share eternal life.

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 January 15–16

### Saturday, January 15

4:30 pm: Fr. Bob Colaresi

### Sunday, January 16

8:00 am: Fr. Bill Etheredge

9:30 am: Fr. Bill Etheredge

11:15 am: Fr. Philip Danaher with Deacon Jim Breen

*Presider schedule is subject to change.*

## Welcome Guests and Visitors!

We're so glad you're here and invite you to walk the path of faith with us. St. Thomas strives to provide a spiritual home where all are welcome, where the healing, reconciling, liberating love of God is shared by all. Join us!

## Would you like to become a parishioner?

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

## Calling All Men!

Would you be interested in learning more about membership in our St. Thomas Knights of Columbus council? For an introduction, contact David Yelaska at [cseaskme@gmail.com](mailto:cseaskme@gmail.com).

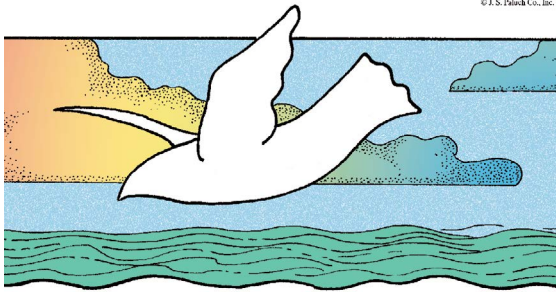


## Church Office and Building Hours

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



## The Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2022

*He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.*

— Titus 3:5

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — Isaiah speaks of the Servant whom the Lord upholds; he shall bring forth justice to the nations (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7) or Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11.

**Psalm** — The Lord will bless his people with peace (Psalm 29) or Psalm 104.

**Second Reading** — Jesus was anointed by God with the Holy Spirit; he went out healing and doing good (Acts 10:34-38) or Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7.

**Gospel** — A voice comes from heaven proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son, with whom God is well pleased (Luke 3:15-16, 21-22).

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 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45

**Friday:** 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12

**Saturday:** 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17

**Sunday:** Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

## Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

### Monday, January 10, 2022

*Weekday*

8:30 am †Eugene Lim, by Cecile and Emil Querubin

### Tuesday, January 11, 2021

*Weekday*

8:30 am †Steve Stone, by The Crowley Family

### Wednesday, January 12, 2021

*Weekday*

8:30 am First Responders

### Thursday, January 13, 2021

*St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

8:30 am †Josephine Quattrochi, by Battisto Family

### Friday, January 14, 2021

*Weekday*

8:30 am †Paul Doebel, by Carol Dapogny

### Saturday, January 15, 2022

*Weekday*

8:30 am The Homeless

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†David Entas, by Mary Wright

†Roger Heim, by Dick and Kay

### Sunday, January 16, 2022

*Second Sunday of Ordinary Time*

8:00 am For safe delivery for baby, by Mom and Dad

9:30 am †Connie Jindrich, by Jim and Mary Jo Breen

†Peggy Clark, by Patti and Bill Dougherty

11:15 am †Ed Olah, by Audrey Easton

## Reflecting on the Readings ...

This Christmas season ends with a beginning — we celebrate Jesus' baptism and initiation into his ministry. The ancient promise of justice to Israel is fulfilled in him whose mission, empowered by the Spirit, will focus on peace and justice. Our baptism mirrors his as the beginning of what we are called to be and do. We are all empowered to be instruments of peace and justice and to invite others to join us.

## Prayer

God of grace and glory,  
you call us with your voice of flame  
to be your people, faithful and courageous.  
As your beloved Son  
embraced his mission in the waters of baptism,  
inspire us with the fire of your Spirit  
to join in his transforming work.  
We ask this in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## Greetings St. Thomas the Apostle community,

Last weekend, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. This day is most notable for the story of the Three Kings following the star to the baby Jesus and presenting their gifts to him. And while most of us would not gift Gold, Frankincense or Myrrh in this day and age, we can still give Christ the greatest gift — ourselves.

There are various liturgical ministries that are essential to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church being the welcoming, vibrant parish community that it is. We need friendly and helpful people to serve as Ministers of Hospitality. We need poised and reflective people to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. We need organized and detailed people to serve as Sacristans. We need tidy and flexible people to serve as Temple Keepers. No matter your God given gifts, there is a ministry in which you can give yourself.

Please take time in prayer and discern where God may be calling you to share your gifts. As a child of God, you are the face of Christ. As a parishioner of St. Thomas the Apostle, you are the face of this community. We need you.

For more information about ministry opportunities, please contact the Liturgy and Music Office or visit the St. Thomas the Apostle website. Make the Year of Our Lord 2022 the year in which you discover a new way in which you can share your gifts for the building of God's reign.

Blessings,  
Samantha Delke  
Associate Director of Liturgy and Music

## 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](#).



## At Home with the Word

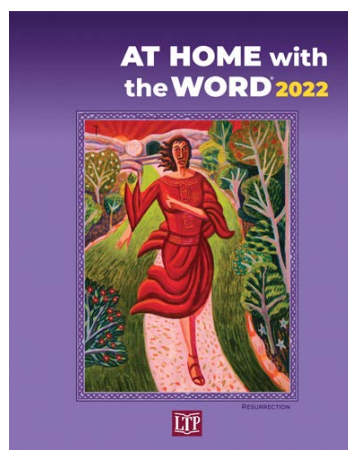
The *At Home with the Word* book is a great tool for breaking open the Sunday Scriptures at home; helping you to reflect further on God's Word and preparing to celebrate the Sunday Liturgy. Commentaries about the readings assist in comprehension and a deeper dive into the Sacred Scripture.

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

**Regular Print:** \$9.00

**Large Print:** \$13.00

Check or exact cash ONLY.



# CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN HONOR OF ...

Herb and Kay Abraham  
Mario Accettura  
Dorothy and Stanley Adamczewski  
Elmer and Loretta Adams  
Robert and Ellen Anderson  
Deceased Family Members (Anonymous)  
Helen Baker  
Rose Baker  
Alfred and Lucy Banczkiewicz  
Juanita Barnes  
Edgar and Catherine Bauler  
James E. Becker  
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Bennington  
Mikey Bennington  
Berchtold Family  
Robert and Mary Bickel  
Bowman Family  
George and Sally Brennan  
Anthony and Joan Brenner  
Evelyn Burgess  
Joseph M. Burke  
Ronald Callahan  
Leonard Carlino Family  
Betty Carmody  
Mary Sue Carroll  
Steven Caruso  
Sgt. David Caruso  
Edythe and Joseph Caruso  
Virginia and Salvatore Castrio  
Donald S. Castro  
Evie Cermak  
Marilyn Cermak  
Lois Cermak  
Alfred and Birdie Cheesebrough  
Leonard Church  
Sylvia Cordes  
Bob Cotner  
Jean Couratier  
Robert S. Currier  
Bob Currier  
Deacon Dominic and Rose Cuzzone  
The Cvengros Family  
David Davidson  
Lucinda De Sousa  
Rick DeAngelo  
Mary DeNicolo  
Dennis L. Doll  
Tom and Verda Dougherty  
Don and Marilyn Drever  
Ed Eenigenburg  
Margaret Eenigenburg

Ben and Emily Entas  
David B. Entas  
George Faeh  
Beah Faeh  
Aldo Fortino, Jr.  
Irene Friery  
John and Ora Fruechte  
Grace and Clinton Fry  
Sylvia Gheen  
Jan Gilbert  
Lucille Goste  
John Lee Grayson  
Frederick Maurice Grayson  
Cyrilla H. Green  
J. Gregory Green  
Dr. Spalding Green  
Ned Green  
Bernadette and Edward Hanratty  
Eleanor Hartmann  
George and Hilda Heck  
Mary C. Hill  
Richard Jaracz  
Dean Johnson  
Mildred Johnson  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Katers  
Deceased Members of Kelly Family  
Betty and Doyle Kilty  
Joan D. Kimmey  
Loretta Krawczyk  
Anton John Kuzel  
Vivian Rose Kuzel  
Rupert Malone  
George B. Mannion  
Jeffrey Marek  
James Maul  
Susan McCauley  
Dorothy McGrath  
McKinley Family  
Neil and Alicemay Miles  
Dennis Miller  
Delores and Everett Miller  
Mitchell Family  
Ida Moore  
Joyce Moore  
Chester Moore  
Patrick Moore  
Andrew Moore  
Andy Mravca  
Robert and Theda Myers  
Ella Maria Myers  
Magdalena Nowak Bryja

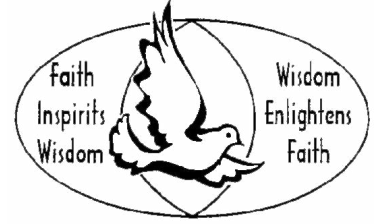
Ruben Nunez  
Coletta Flynn O'Brien  
Michael James O'Brien  
Tommy O'Grady  
Patricia O'Neill  
Anna O'Neill  
Dorothy O'Reilly  
Catherine and Frank O'Rourke  
Joan R. Oetter  
Benjamin Parrilli  
James Parrilli  
Frances Passanante  
Jim Patterman  
Betty Peterson  
Walter Piwowarczyk  
Alex and Dorothy Popp  
Mary V. Portman  
Antonia Prelec  
Frances Prelec  
Charles Puckett, III  
Charles Puckett, Jr.  
Charles Puckett, Sr.  
Deceased Members of Querio Family  
Thomas Rank  
Jim and Joan Rioux  
Deceased Members of Ripanti Family  
Jim and Joan Rixie  
Delfina Rosa  
Rose Ruffolo  
The Sander Family  
Scarpino Family  
Paul Schardt  
Robert J. Schmitt  
Joseph R. Schmitt  
Emily M. Schmitt  
Deceased Members of Schnorr Family  
Deceased Members of Smolinski Family  
Deceased Members of Souronis Family  
Rosemarie and James Spera  
Vera and Emerson Swadner  
Klara Tschudi  
Bill and Margaret Vernon  
James Weibling  
Millie Weibling  
Johnathan A. Weiger  
Mathias Wennes  
Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Wennes  
Jeffrey Wojoa  
Jim Wolff  
Olivia Zinkavich  
Genevieve and Mitchell Zoladz

# Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

## C.A.R.E. CORNER

Luke's gospel gives us the story of the beginning of the life of St. John the Baptist. John's father was Zechariah, a priest who served at the temple in Jerusalem. After a childless life, his aged mother Elizabeth, a relative of Mary, conceived John and they welcomed his birth with joy among their neighbors

and friends. John became a nazirite, set apart and consecrated to God. His mission was to herald and prepare the coming of the anointed One — the Messiah. He is considered to be the last and greatest of the prophets, the one who was charged with the task of testifying to Jesus.



It was John who was given the privilege of baptizing Jesus in the Jordan River. And Scripture tells us that after pointing people to Jesus, John himself was content to decrease in importance so that Jesus could take it from there. John knew Jesus ranked ahead of him. We can learn from John the Baptist that it's important to complete the unique mission tasked to us with regard to the unfolding of the kingdom of God. No matter what part we are given to play, no matter how small it may seem, God depends on us to do our part and to witness to God's chosen One. Today we celebrate the baptism of Jesus, which brings our Christmas season to a close.

### Where R U God?

*Free Virtual Men's Annual Retreat with Fr. Bob Colaresi facilitating*

January 29, 2022, from 9:00 am–12:00 pm

These frustrating times have changed our religious and spiritual practices. The in-person human connection is not the same — and don't we wonder: Where are you, God?

Is God ever going to help us out of 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 — exploring the "dark nights" of spiritual emptiness and absence; how we deal with these desert times.

**God is called Emmanuel (God with us) but sometimes the divine seems hidden.**

There will be some input, small group sharing as we break into groups, prompts, etc. Sometimes God is in the search.

This will be a free virtual retreat, but register early so we have time to set up home groups/council circles. It will be good to share and search this important and relevant issue.

Pre-registration necessary by January 24. Contact the Carmelite Spiritual Center at 630.969.4141 or [retreats@CarmeliteSpiritualCenter.org](mailto:retreats@CarmeliteSpiritualCenter.org).

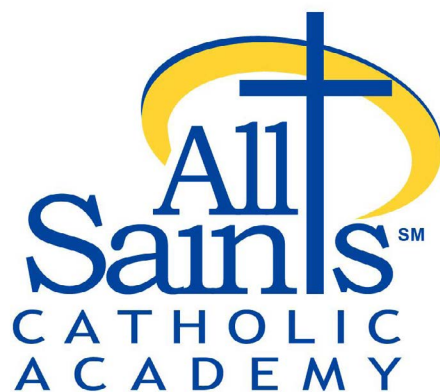


## Stay Connected to St. Thomas

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

Follow St. Thomas on Facebook

Download the St. Thomas App for your phone



## 2022–2023 Registration Opens Sunday, January 30

Registration for families new to All Saints begins on Sunday, January 30 from 1:00–3:00 pm at our in-person Open House.

All Saints has experienced tremendous growth over the past two years, with parents seeking excellent academics in a safe, stable and nurturing environment, where faith is the key to their child's formation and growth.

The class sizes at All Saints allow our teachers to personally know each student and meet their needs, with safety always at the forefront of all that we do.

All Saints has been pleased to welcome many new students and families at all grade levels — from preschool 3s through grade 8. These families have been very happy with their decision to make the move to ASCA, and to find a school where their child is learning more and thriving.

### At All Saints, you will find:

- Preschool programs for 3 and 4 year olds taught by degreed teachers in a true school environment.
- End-to-end extended care available for all students, with drop off as early as 7:00 am, and pick up until 6:00 pm. Busing for K-8 students residing within in D203 boundaries.
- Faith formation and prayer woven throughout each school day, with K-8 Mass once a week.
- Tuition Transfer Grant of \$1,500 off tuition over two years (\$1,000 in year 1/ \$500 in year 2) for students transferring into grades 1-7 from a public school.
- A strong and united school community where new students and families are welcome and embraced, and family values are shared.

Your Saint can Shine Bright at All Saints too!



Artwork by ASCA Grade 2 students

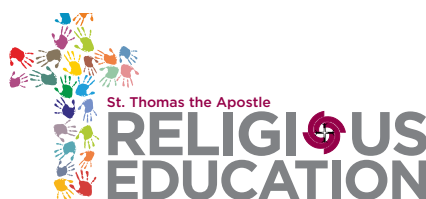
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For more information on registration and enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year, we invite you to visit our website at [ascacademy.org](http://ascacademy.org), or call 630.961.6125.

# Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

## First Reconciliation Required Make-Up Parent Enrichment Session

First Reconciliation Required Make-Up Parent Enrichment Session is only Monday, January 10, 2022, at 7:00 pm in the Church. Parents who have a child receiving their First Reconciliation in the spring need to attend. Only one parent, who desires to have their child receive First Reconciliation, need attend. Parents who have already attended a session for an older child need not attend. Please RSVP to the Faith Formation Office at 630.305.6318 or REAdmin@stapostle.org. The session will cover Theology of Reconciliation by Father Danaher and Preparation for Reconciliation by Lorraine Katz.



## Kindergarten Mass

The Kindergarten Religious Education Class is invited along with their families to a special Mass on Sunday, January 16 at 11:15 am. Kindergarten children may be part of the ordinary time Mass procession, please meet in the Narthex at 11:00 am. Please bring a can of soup or toilet paper for the Care Pantry.

## 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.



## Coming Soon to Middle School Religious Education

On February 5 and 7, middle school RE classes will be hosting a special speaker, Mary Latham. From October 2016 to November 2019 Mary Latham drove her mother's old Subaru (in her honor) 43,000 miles across America to collect stories of acts of human kindness. She hit all 50 states and is now compiling these stories into a book to donate to hospital waiting rooms. She will be sharing her story/faith journey and some of those acts of kindness with us. The title of Mary's presentation is 'More Good.' Mary's presentations will be held at St. Thomas during regular RE class times. Parents are also welcome to attend.

## Wonder of Christmas

Thank you to all of the young people who helped to proclaim the Christmas Gospel so beautifully and effectively with a Christmas pageant at the 4:00 pm liturgy on Christmas Eve: Laura Alfaro, Ava Ambrosino, Evan Ambrosino, Katherine Connell, Mary Duran, William DuVal, Tim Howley, Adam Ogoudou, Fiona Owens, Carmen Pecoraro, Daphne Pecoraro, Rosalie Pecoraro, Julian Smith, Mira Smith, Eddie Zoeller, and a special baby Jesus, Claire Connell. In addition, a special thanks goes to Katelyn Garlough and Lorelai Garlough for so beautifully proclaiming the first and second readings at Mass; to Hailey Zoeller for help during the pageant; and to Mike Ryder for his filming expertise and being able to project the pageant on the big screen so that it could be more easily viewed. There is nothing like young people acting out the story of Christmas to help us to feel wonder. May the wonder of that first Christmas live on in our hearts.

## Important Dates

### Elementary RE

**January 11, 25 and February 1**

Tuesday elementary RE classes meet

**January 15, 22 and 29**

Saturday elementary RE classes meet

- Saturday, January 15 – Kindergarten Class meets at the Church
- Saturday, January 22 – First Grade Classes meet at the Church

### Middle School RE

**January 10, 24:**

Monday middle school RE classes meet.

**January 15, 22, 29**

Saturday middle school RE classes meet.



## 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!

## Question of the week ...

How does being baptized affect your daily decisions?



# Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice

## Parish Theme

### That All May Be One

The parish theme is “That All May Be One.” What does it mean to you?

Does it mean that all who enter our community may be one? ... Or is it broader than that?

Does it mean that all Catholics may be one? ... Or is it more encompassing than that?

And no matter what it means, how do we do it? What can we do that will enable all to be one?

### One answer to those questions

Fr. Greg Boyle founded Homeboy Industries in 1992, located in East Los Angeles in the midst of multiple gang territories. Homeboy Industries employs and trains thousands of former gang members every year.

“Soon we imagine, with God, this circle of compassion. Then we imagine no one standing outside of that circle, moving ourselves closer to the margins so that the margins themselves will be erased. We stand there with those whose dignity has been denied. We locate ourselves with the poor and the powerless and the voiceless. At the edges, we join the easily despised and the readily left out. We stand with the demonized so that the demonizing will stop. We situate ourselves right next to the disposable so that the day will come when we stop throwing people away.”

*Gregory Boyle, Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*

What is your answer to those questions?

## Laudato Si' Ministries Diocesan Initiative

*Asking for St. Thomas Participation*

Laudato si' is the second encyclical of Pope Francis, published on June 18, 2015. The encyclical has the subtitle “on care for our common home.” In it, the pope critiques consumerism and irresponsible development, laments environmental degradation and global warming and calls all people of the world to take “swift and unified global action.”

Please review the information below. If you have interest in understanding more about the diocesan initiative and perhaps becoming involved, we will arrange a meeting as suggested by the diocese below. Please contact Mike in the OSJ Office at [mryder@stapostle.org](mailto:mryder@stapostle.org), 630.355.8980, x121 with any questions or for more information.

### Diocesan Message

*I'm a member of the Diocese of Joliet's Laudato Si' Committee. I'm contacting you on behalf of the Diocese of Joliet Laudato Si' Ministries. We are also hoping to expand our Laudato Si' Ministries Committee to include more parishes. The world is at a crossroads when it comes to Climate Change. Additionally, in November the Vatican launched a 7 Year Laudato Si' Action Platform, which is a call for all Catholic institutions, families and individuals to work toward sustainability and integral ecology.*

*Would you be interested in meeting sometime in the near future to talk about our ministry and the Laudato Si' Action Platform? Do you know of any parishioners who might be interested? If so, please let me know and we can arrange a convenient time and date to meet. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Looking forward to hearing from you. In Peace, Julian Brown*

### Laudato Si' Ministries

Laudato Si' Ministries of the Diocese of Joliet uses the lens of Catholic Social Teaching to approach agriculture, environmental, food sustainability, climate and rural life issues. Through Scripture and Church teachings, we seek to provide principled guidelines for faithful practices. The objective of this ministry is to develop a comprehensive approach to environmental justice and the implementation of Laudato Si', Pope Francis' encyclical On Care for our Common Home, in our diocese, parishes, schools and local communities. We do this through educational and pastoral support, policy and legislation, creating community and sustainable food sources for the poor and vulnerable.

### PATH January 11 Zoom Meeting

#### It's more important to be interested than interesting Become the Candidate of Choice

“We loved you, but have decided to go in a different direction!” Ever hear those words after an interview? Join us on January 11 when Mr. Kevin O'Connor, CSP visits the PATH Group to share tips, techniques and wisdom collected from over 300 interview postmortems that will enable job seekers to become the candidates of choice.

Kevin is an experienced executive coach, consultant, professional speaker, author and is an Adjunct Senior Instructor at Loyola University. His professional focus centers on career development, leadership enrichment, communication and relationship enhancement, and building high performance teams. Kevin works with clients preparing for their next career move by utilizing proven interview strategies and tactics to ensure they become the #1 Candidate of Choice.

Register in advance for this webinar: Contact Fred Johnson at [fred.c.johnson50@gmail.com](mailto:fred.c.johnson50@gmail.com) or click [here](#). Once you have registered for the event, you will receive the Zoom meeting information in a confirmation email.



## 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. Please return all donations by Tuesday, January 18.

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

*St. Thomas Pro-Life Committee*

## Hesed House PADS

### February Food Donation Sign-Up

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

We are asking parishioners to donate the food items needed each month. Thanks to all those who helped with December donations.

Special thanks to the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus that took full responsibility for providing food and preparing the food for January.

We are now asking for donations for the first Thursday in February.



### How to donate food for Hesed House

If you are willing and able to provide food for February, you can sign up on the St. Thomas website home page ([www.stapostle.org](http://www.stapostle.org)) for specific items. If you enjoy cooking, you can sign up to prepare the entrée or the dessert. Recipes and pans are provided. If cooking is not your greatest gift, there are many other items needed. Please deliver all items to the St. Thomas Gathering Area on Thursday, February 3, before 4:00 pm. Thanks to all who are able to help.



## Food Donations for Care Pantry

*Drive-Through Donations Accepted  
Tuesday, January 11 from 9:00–10:00  
am or 5:00–6:00 pm.*

Bring donations to St. Thomas on Tuesday, January 11 from 9:00–10:00 am or 5:00–6:00 pm. Place the items in the trunk or the back of your vehicle, stay in your vehicle, and we will remove the items for you. Items will be collected outside Door C, which is across from the labyrinth.

In order to serve our Care Pantry families in the best possible way, we are requesting items unavailable from the food bank and items we particularly need. Please bring the items listed below.

- Ramen noodles
- Pasta sauce
- Microwave popcorn
- Jiffy mix
- Jello
- Cereal
- Toilet paper
- Canned soup

Thank you for your support. Consider being a drop off location for people in your neighborhood and bringing a trunk load of food to St. Thomas.

# Service Commission — Pastoral Care



## Wellspring Zoom Event Healing and Rebuilding Community Through COVID-19

COVID-19 has challenged us in many ways, not least in the ways we relate to one another.

Join us for a Zoom event Tuesday, February 1, 2022, from 7:00–8:30 pm to develop and try out tools for working through grief and loss, working toward “Healing and Re-Building Community.”

Our presenter, Bernadette Beyer, will explore with us ways to re-form our relationships with God and one another. The pandemic era has changed us in many ways. Where do we go from here?

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

This event is sponsored by Wellspring. Wellspring is co-hosted by the Adult Faith Formation and the Pastoral Care Ministries and is dedicated to integrating a wholistic, body-mind-spirit way of living.

Please join us for this safe and welcoming evening. Questions and sharing are encouraged.

To participate, please RSVP to REAdmin@stapostle.org or call 630.355.8980, x118 by January 28.

Reservations are required in order to receive a Zoom link.

## From the Office of the Parish Nurse How Memory Works and How to Improve It

*Learning strategies to counteract age-related memory changes can help boost recall.*

Aging is accompanied by the atrophy of areas of the cortex (outer layer of the brain) and the medial temporal regions, which include the hippocampus, according to a paper published online June 2016 in the journal *Neuropsychologia*.



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE  
St. Thomas the Apostle

### Strengthening Memory Processes.

Memory involves three distinct processes, all of which can be improved. The three processes are:

- 1. Encoding:** Encoding, or creating an enduring memory representation, is the first and perhaps most critical step in the memory process. How well information is encoded or learned will determine whether or not it is stored away for later retrieval, and whether the memory is strong or weak. Encoding is largely a function of attention. Some suggestions: When you are presented with information you want to remember force yourself to pay attention. Increase your focus by taking a deep breath. Spend a few moments concentrating on remembering the spot. Eliminate distractions, if possible, and mentally simplify and organize the information to make it easier to remember. Think about why the information is meaningful.
- 2. Storage:** Memory storage involves the retention of information over time. After new information enters the brain through the senses, the memory trace is held briefly in the hippocampus as a short-term memory, and then either discarded or relayed to the cortex, where it is consolidated as long-term memory. Some suggestions: Since research suggests that long-term memory consolidation occurs while you are sleeping, try to get seven to eight hours of good-quality sleep at night. Lower stress and treat depression: Studies suggest that high levels of the stress hormone cortisol a characteristic of both stress and depression can interfere with the formation of lasting memories. Use notes, lists, and memory strategies, such as acronyms or rhyming, to help you remember information. Studies have shown that older adults use cues or strategies to facilitate memory processes, their ability to remember information can be comparable to that of younger people.
- 3. Retrieval:** Calling up information from memory storage, or retrieval, becomes more challenging with age. Some suggestions: One important technique is to enhance your prospective memory (remembering to perform an intended action) by using reminders and cues, and reviewing the day's plans in advance. Periodic review will also make information easier to retrieve. When trying to recall information such as a name, details on an event or other information, try recapturing the mood you experienced when your memory was formed. Reconstructing the circumstance or thinking of associations related to the information (e.g. associating an acquaintance whose name you can't remember with work, with a sport, or a social event) can also sometimes jog your memory.

*Adapted from: Mind, Mood & Memory, Massachusetts General Hospital*

**From the Behavioral Health Ministry  
January is Mental Health Wellness Month**

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

Emotional wellness inspires self-care, relaxation, stress reduction and the development of inner strength. It is important to be attentive to both positive and negative feelings and be able to understand how to handle these emotions. Emotional wellness also includes the ability to learn and grow from experiences.

[www.mentalhealth.gov](http://www.mentalhealth.gov)



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
St. Thomas the Apostle

**Factors affecting mental health**

- Self-esteem. This is the value we place on ourselves, our positive self-image and sense of self-worth.
- Feeling loved. Children who feel loved, trusted and accepted by their parents and others are far more likely to have good self-esteem.
- Confidence
- Family breakup or loss
- Difficult behavior
- Physical ill health
- Abuse

[canwetalk.ca](http://canwetalk.ca)

**8 Proven Ways to Achieve Mental Wellness:**

1. Get at least eight hours of sleep a day.
2. Eat a healthy diet.
3. Keep yourself active.
4. Interact with others.
5. Pick up a new skill or hobby.
6. Get a mental workout.
7. Do something for others.
8. Learn to manage stress.

[www.healthxchange.sg](http://www.healthxchange.sg)

**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 Nurse  
Felicia, 630.355.8980, x104

**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

**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*

# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, January 10

4:30–5:15 pm Jammers and Youth Choir, Cana  
 6:15–8:30 pm Knights of Columbus, Lighthouse  
 7:00–8:30 pm First Reconciliation Parent Mtg., Church  
 7:00–8:15 pm Confirmation Classes, Gym and Senior Center

### Tuesday, January 11

9:00–10:00 am Drive Thru Care Pantry Donation, Outside  
 4:30–5:45 pm RE at St. Thomas, Ministry Center  
 7:00–9:00 pm Finance Committee, Cana  
 7:00–9:00 pm RCIA Team, Senior Center  
 7:00–9:00 pm Voices of Faith, Church

### Wednesday, January 12

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center  
 7:00–9:00 pm Pro-Life, Judea  
 7:15–8:45 pm Faith Formation Commission, Senior Center

### Thursday, January 13

9:15–11:15 am Thursday AM Bible Study, Senior Center  
 6:30–8:00 pm Life Retreat Planning, Gym and Youth Center  
 7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

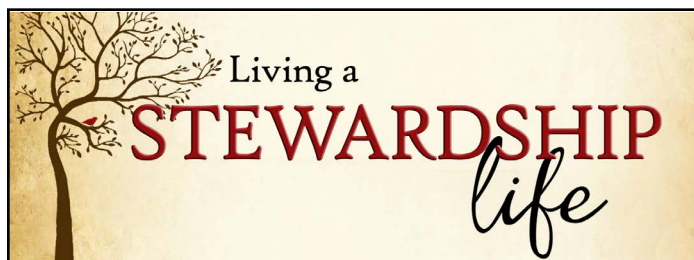
### Friday, January 14

### Saturday, January 15

8:00–10:00 am Kindergarten Church Visit  
 9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Cana  
 9:00 am–9:30 pm Life Retreat, Ministry Center  
 3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Chapel

### Sunday, January 16

9:00 am–3:30 pm Life Retreat, Ministry Center  
 11:15–12:15 pm Kindergarten Mass, Church



*They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.*

~Matthew 2:11

The Magi brought what was most precious to the child for even they knew his importance. Gold acknowledging his royalty. Frankincense acknowledging his divinity, and myrrh indicating his humanity (it was to be used to prepare bodies for burial). Mary received these gifts humbly and took care of them, knowing how important they were.

God gives us gifts, too, and expects us to use them wisely. Time, talent and treasure. The gifts that God gives us are important and we should take care of them. As we enter a new year, let us focus on how we will use those gifts for the benefit of others. Using them wisely will show the World how important they are.

## Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

### Weekly Sunday Offertory

December 26, 2021	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$5,033
Credit Card Online Giving (reported monthly)	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	\$25,914
Mailed in and stock donations	\$1,954
Total for the week	\$32,901
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$900,908
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$34,650
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$872,806
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$28,102
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	52%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$844,692

This week, the Sunday collection is \$28,102 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$50 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

### Diocesan Appeal 2021

Parish Appeal Goal	\$174,100
Pledges Received	\$161,755
Percent of Goal pledged to date	92.91%
Unpaid pledges	\$644
Paid to Date	\$161,111
Percent of goal paid to date	92.54%

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!**

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			<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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