

# St. Thomas

JANUARY 30, 2022 — FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*Faith, hope, and love remain, these three;  
but the greatest of these is love.*

*— 1 Corinthians 13:13*

# 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

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### Faith Formation

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Lorraine Katz, *Director of Religious Education*, x109, lkatz@stapostle.org

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Geralyn 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

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

### Pastoral Care

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Diane McQueen, *Gen Office Administrative Asst.*, x101, dmcqueen@stapostle.org

Chris Ridge, *Evening/Saturday Receptionist*

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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,

Today's gospel describes the time when Jesus, during a worship service in a synagogue in his hometown of Nazareth, was criticized by people whom he had probably known from his childhood. How could God give such wisdom and the ability to do mighty deeds to such an ordinary person as a carpenter's son?

They did not look deep enough. Yes, Jesus' first appearance to the world was as an ordinary, everyday person. But look at his heart; a heart which reached out to those whom Jewish society rejected, namely society's so-called sinners. Jesus' heart went out to a tax collector named Matthew, considered to be a traitor to the people of Israel because he worked for the Roman Empire. Jesus' heart went out to those who suffered from leprosy, people who were thrown out of their homes by their families because of their disease, and touched them.

Look at the ordinary people whom Jesus asked to follow him besides Matthew the tax collector. One of the fishermen whom Jesus called to be his follower, a man named Peter, was also called by our Lord to be the leader of his Church.

Our Church is filled with ordinary people, who have ordinary jobs, and who have been called to do extraordinary things for our extraordinary God. Yes, we are imperfect people, we are all sinners, yet God has called us to do his perfect work, his perfect labor, of building up his kingdom with the love that is within our hearts.

St. Augustine once said the following: "A Christian is: a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps."

We are all ordinary people. We have all led ordinary lives. But let us always remember that it is our hearts through which Christ loves, our voices through which Christ speaks, and our hands through which Christ helps.

In the Word,

*Fr. Danaher*

## Liturgy Schedule

### Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday–Saturday

### Wednesdays

Communion Service: 6:30 am

### 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 February 5–6

### Saturday, February 5

4:30 pm: Fr. Bill Etheredge

### Sunday, February 6

8:00 am: Fr. Philip Danaher

9:30 am: Fr. Philip Danaher with Deacon Jim Breen

11:15 am: Fr. Matt Lorenz

*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 [cseaaskme@gmail.com](mailto:cseaaskme@gmail.com).



## Church Office and Building Hours

St. Thomas offices are open 8:30 am–4:30 pm Monday through Friday. The reception desk in the Gathering Area is staffed 9:00 am–8:00 pm Monday–Thursday; 9:00 am–4:30 pm Friday; and 9:00 am–1:00 pm Saturday.

Schedule subject to change. You can call to check on times before coming. Please enter through Door A.

# Worship Commission — Liturgy and Music



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## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 30, 2022

*Faith, hope, and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*  
— 1 Corinthians 13:13

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — God appoints Jeremiah as prophet to the nations (Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19).

**Psalm** — I will sing of your salvation (Psalm 71).

**Second Reading** — Love with its many facets is the most important of the virtues (1 Corinthians 12:31 — 13:13 [13:4-13]).

**Gospel** — When Jesus claims his salvific mission is for all people, not just the Jews, he is expelled by the enraged members of the Nazarean synagogue (Luke 4:21-30).

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:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7; Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30 — 19:3; Ps 86:1-6; Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday:** Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr 29:10-12; Mk 6:7-13

**Friday:** Sir 47:2-11; Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51; Mk 6:14-29

**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34

**Sunday:** Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138:1-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11 [3-8, 11]; Lk 5:1-11

## Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

### Monday, January 31, 2022

*St. John Bosco, Priest and Religious Founder*

8:30 am †Edward Singer, by Kathy Singer and Family

### Tuesday, February 1, 2022

*Weekday*

8:30 am †Cecilia Navata, by Marge Dunning

### Wednesday, February 2, 2022

*The Presentation of the Lord*

8:30 am †James V. Parrilli, by Parrilli Family

### Thursday, February 3, 2022

*St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr*

8:30 am Thanksgiving for Jan Olah, by Audrey Easton

### Friday, February 4, 2022

*Weekday*

8:30 am †Aurelio Lopez, by DeGuzman Family

### Saturday, February 5, 2022

*St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr*

8:30 am Aerielle Arguellas, by Carmelita Encarnacion

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Lillian Smolinski, by Mike and Margie Souronis

†Ed Olah, by Joe and Carolyn Cuzzone

### Sunday, February 6, 2022

*Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time*

8:00 am †Ed Olah, by Arts and Environment

9:30 am †Kim Schnorr, by Joe and Carolyn Cuzzone

†Eleanor Cuff, by Jim and Kim, Joe and Lydia, Ryan and Sarah and Jim and Mary

11:15 am †Peggy Clark, by Joe and Carolyn Cuzzone

## Reflecting on the Readings ...

Who really wants to be called upon to change, let alone promote it in others? The prophets surely didn't, and Jesus early on heard the reaction to his sermon among his own people. Today's readings remind us that our faith is grounded in God's word. That always involves the call to be and live differently. Just as God's love sustained others, we are equipped with spiritual gifts, especially love, to respond to that same call.

## Communion Service

St. Thomas the Apostle is now offering a 6:30 am Communion Service on Wednesdays.

Deacon Joe Cuzzone will preside over this 30 minute liturgy in the Church space in which the Word is proclaimed, a reflection on Sacred Scripture is given and Eucharist is distributed. What a wonderful way to begin your day and provide a moment of prayer and community mid-week.

All are welcome!

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## Anointing Mass Saturday, February 5

Saturday, February 5 we will have a special 1:00 pm Mass for those who desire to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

### A Sacrament of Healing

We come before the Lord for healing. Like all sacraments, the Anointing of the Sick is a liturgical and communal celebration. The sacrament includes the following principle elements: the priest in silence lays his hands on the head of the sick or elderly person and prays over them. He then anoints their forehead and hands with the Oil of the Sick saying, "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."

Sources: *Catechism of the Catholic Church, USCCB Catholic Catechism for Adults*

## Black History Month I Dream a World by Langston Hughes

*I dream a world where man  
No other man will scorn,  
Where love will bless the earth  
And peace its paths adorn.  
I dream a world where all  
Will know sweet freedom's way,  
Where greed no longer saps the soul  
Nor avarice blights our day.  
A world I dream where black or white,  
Whatever race you be,  
Will share the bounties of the earth  
And every man is free,  
Where wretchedness will hang its head  
And joy, like a pearl,  
Attends the needs of all mankind--  
Of such I dream, my world!*



### Fr. Bob Thank You

Please accept my humble thanks for the outpouring of cards and notes to celebrate my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. I was overwhelmed and it was a real pick-me-up as I was facing surgery and the dreaded fear of getting so old.

Many of you touched my heart with your generous comments. I must admit that aging into 80 was mentally traumatic, but with your help and support it became a time of acceptance and surrender, reflecting how good God has been to me.

I read several each day the next few weeks to let them sink in. Thank you for caring enough. Thanks to you and the community of St. Thomas for your light and friendship, which have brightened my life's journey.

St. Therese taught us that "Everything is grace" and that includes you!

Gratefully,

Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.

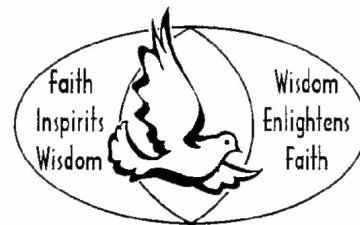
# Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

## C.A.R.E. CORNER

Today we take a look at the life of St. Polycarp, also a disciple of the apostle John. He eventually became the bishop of Smyrna which is in present-day Turkey. He was also a colleague of Ignatius of Antioch and eventually became the teacher of Irenaeus of Lyons. We have one surviving letter that Polycarp

wrote to the people of the Church in Philippi. The letter expressed concerns about persecutions and different heresies affecting the Church. He specifically addressed the false teachings of the Docetists. He also helped to make a case for getting the gospel of John included into the biblical canon.

Polycarp was martyred in the stadium in Rome around the year 155. He was thrown into a funeral pyre which apparently did not consume him. So an executioner was sent to pierce him with a dagger. It is said that his blood put out the fire. Within months of his martyrdom, the Church in Smyrna published a letter about his death and circulated it to the entire Catholic Church to encourage all Christians to stay strong in their faith. Our early bishops were indeed faithful and courageous shepherds of their respective flocks, for which they were major targets of persecution.



## What is a Synod?

Have you ever wished you could give the Church a piece of your mind? Pope Francis is inviting us to do just that! A period of preparation began in October 2021 for a "Synod on Synodality" of the world's bishops in Rome in October 2023. The preparation has three phases: diocesan, national and international.

This is where we come in. In an unprecedented move, Pope Francis asks that every parish conduct "Listening Sessions" to provide input on 10 topics around three questions:

1. Where is the Church heading?
2. Where should it be heading?
3. How do we get there together?

**What is a Synod?** It is an ancient practice of coming together in a body to listen to/consult with one another, to "walk with one another." We are a part, as St. Paul reminds us, of the Body of Christ, filled with, guided by and urged forward by the Holy Spirit.

**Consider the logo** A large, majestic tree, full of wisdom and light, reaches for the sky. A sign of deep vitality and hope which expresses the cross of Christ. It carries the Eucharist, which shines like the sun. The horizontal branches, opened like hands or wings, suggest, at the same time, the Holy Spirit.

The people of God are not static: they are on the move, in direct reference to the sense of the word synod, which means "walking together." The people are united by the same common dynamic that this Tree of Life breathes into them, from which they begin their walk.

These 15 silhouettes sum up our entire humanity in its diversity of life situations of generations and origins. This aspect is reinforced by the multiplicity of bright colors which are themselves signs of joy. There is no hierarchy between these people who are all on the same footing: young, old, men, women, teenagers, children, lay people, religious, parents, couples, singles, healthy, disabled; the bishop and the nun are not in front of them, but among them. Quite naturally, children and then adolescents open their walk, in reference to these words of Jesus in the Gospel: "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to little children." (Mt 11:25)

**So how can you add your voice?** Two ways:

1. Contribute your responses to "Sharing Wisdom," the questionnaire available on our website and Facebook page, beginning February 1. Paper copies will also be available in church.
2. Talk with people! Drawing from the topics of the questionnaire, we are asked to be the Body of Christ in the world, meeting with people where they are and listening non-judgmentally or defensively to their hopes and dreams, fears and challenges, concerns and hurts. Make note of these conversations and transmit them to the Adult Faith Formation Office ([croales@stapostle.org](mailto:croales@stapostle.org)). Speak informally with everyone, as many as you can, including former parishioners, non-practicing Catholics, people of other faith traditions, those on the margins of society. All responses are due by April 1.

Remember — the Church needs each and every one of us! The Holy Spirit is working in you, with you and through you.



## The Reading Rack

Prayer. What does the word evoke for you? A conversation with God? Beloved selections from our treasury of written prayer? Reflecting on the word of God in Scripture? Or joining with Mary in prayer through the Rosary?

Whatever your preferred method of prayer, you will find something to refresh and nourish your soul through the winter with the current selections on the Reading Rack in the Gathering Area.

A self-checkout binder is on the top shelf for your convenience. Please remember to return the materials (including periodicals) after 2 weeks so that others may enjoy them. On the lowest shelf there are even books for our littlest prayers — our children, so they may learn the ways of speaking with and listening to God.

## Save the Date

Have you missed St. Joseph's Table?

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 19 when it returns as "St. Joe-To-Go!"

Pre-orders will be necessary and pick up will be after the 4:30 pm Mass March 19.

Stay tuned for more details.



## Open House this Sunday January 30 from 1:00–3:00 pm

This Sunday, we invite you to come out of the cold and visit All Saints, your parish school, in person at our first Open House since 2020!

To make an appointment for a personalized tour at the Open House, go to our website – [ascacademy.org](http://ascacademy.org). We will also be accepting walk-ins on the day of the event.

### What to Expect on Open House Day?

#### Tours will be conducted by School Parents, Students and Alumni

ASCA is blessed with large, bright classrooms, small class sizes and a beautiful campus near downtown Naperville. See the school from the parent perspective. Bring your prospective student(s) to meet their new teacher(s).

#### Meet our Faculty, Administration and School Board

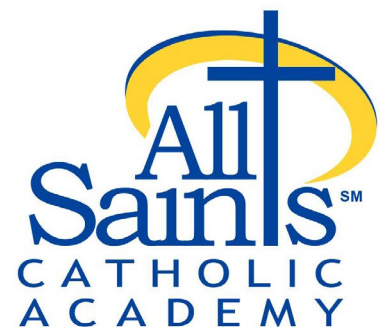
Discover more about the excellent education grounded in faith offered at All Saints; and how All Saints might be great fit for your student and family. Special activities and exhibits will be highlighted in every classroom throughout the building.

#### Registration for the 2022-2023 School Year Begins on Open House Sunday

- **Sunday, January 30 to Sunday, February 13:** Registration of parish families from All Saints' supporting parishes: St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Margaret Mary, St. Thomas the Apostle, Our Lady of Mercy and Holy Spirit Catholic Community.
- **Monday, February 14 to Sunday, February 20:** Registration accepted from non-affiliated Catholic families.
- **Monday, February 21 forward:** Open enrollment as openings remain.

All Saints Catholic Academy is located at 1155 Aurora Avenue in central Naperville – not far from where you live. If you are unable to attend the Open House, please contact the school at 630.961.6125 to schedule a tour in February.

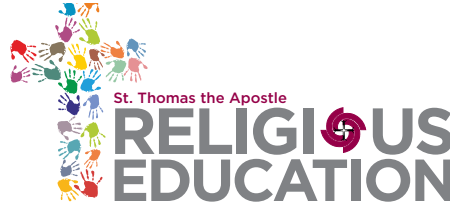
For more information, visit our website at [ascacademy.org](http://ascacademy.org).



# Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

## Coming this Summer — Scripture Safari

Scripture Safari will be June 13–17, 2022!  
Make room for lions, tigers, zebras, elephants,  
monkeys and giraffes learning about Jesus and  
our faith!



## Save the Date — Third Grade Mass

Third grade students and their families are invited to the Third Grade Mass on Saturday, February 5 at 4:30 pm. The children have been learning about and preparing for the Mass. They will be contributing by being readers, gift bearers, host greeters and bulletin cover designers. Please bring cereal and/or canned vegetables for a Care Pantry Donation.

## Celebrate Scout Sunday – February 6, 2022, 9:30 am Mass

Sunday, February 6 at 9:30 am is the Boy Scout Mass. If you are in Scouts — Cub Scout or Boy Scouts — wear your uniform to Mass and celebrate the founding of Scouts. The Scout law says that a “Scout is Reverent.” Younger Scouts promise to do their “Duty to God.” These values strengthen youth character in families, faith and our community. See you then.

## Children’s Liturgy of the Word at 9:30 am Mass Volunteers Needed until May

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 PreK through fifth grade. Commitment is two times a month during the 9:30 am Mass through the middle of May. Contact Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109 for more information or to volunteer.

## Girl Scout Cookie Sales Weekend — February 12–13

Nothing goes better with a warm cup of coffee or tea than a box of Girl Scout Cookies! The first grade Girl Scout troop from All Saints Catholic Academy would be happy to help make that image a reality! Cookies will be on sale in the gathering area before and after all masses the weekend of February 12. Looking for a COVID safe alternative to buy cookies? Cookies can be purchased and shipped directly to your house by clicking [here](#) (shipping charges apply):

You can also email your order or any questions to [allsaintstroop56393@gmail.com](mailto:allsaintstroop56393@gmail.com) and pick up your purchase, avoiding the line. The Daisies thank you for your generosity and continued support and look forward to seeing your smiling eyes!

## Middle School Night at St. Francis

On Saturday, January 29, middle school students have a chance to participate in pep band and choir at St. Francis High School. Students wishing to participate with the pep band will rehearse and then perform with the SFHS Band before the boys basketball game and during halftime. Those wishing to participate in Choir will sing and perform the National Anthem with the SFHS Choral program before the boys basketball game. In addition, free admission to the girls and boys basketball games will be offered to middle school students that evening. The girls basketball game begins at 5:30 pm and the boys game begins at 7:00 pm. For more information and to register, visit [www.sfhscollegeprep.org](http://www.sfhscollegeprep.org).



## Important Dates

### Elementary RE

#### February 1, 8, 15

Tuesday elementary RE classes meet

- Tuesday, February 1 – Second Grade Class meets at the Church for a special “Table Presentation”

#### January 29 and February 5, 12

Saturday elementary RE classes meet

- Saturday, January 29 – Second Grade Class meets at the Church for a special “Table Presentation”

### Middle School RE

#### February 7, 14, 28

Monday middle school RE classes meet.

#### January 29, February 5, 12, 26

Saturday middle school RE classes meet.

*The February 5 and 7 classes will be held at St. Thomas.*



## Teens with Character

Middle school students ... Teens with Character will meet on Sunday, February 13, from 4:30–6:00 pm at St. Thomas. Bring your face mask and join us.

Games, faith sharing, and 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 difficult is it to listen to those around you especially if they are trying to inform or correct you?



## Middle School/High School Mission Trip

Are you ready for an adventure? Middle school youth are invited to be a part of a Week of Hope mission trip experience in Kenosha, Wis., from June 19–24. The Week of Hope experience is a community service mission trip where young people serve alongside seasoned local ministries and nonprofits to make a lasting difference through meaningful community service. After each day of service, the fun continues with themed days, movie nights, lip-sync battles, bedtime stories, group games and much more!

The cost for Week of Hope is \$286. Week of Hope registration forms are available on the St. Thomas website. Don't delay ... register as soon as possible! **Click here now!**

The Week of Hope experience is provided by Group. The Group mission trip team dedicates extensive time and energy to create a Jesus-centered program experience through morning and evening programs, crew devotions and youth group devotions. For more information about Group, go to [www.groupmissiontrips.com](http://www.groupmissiontrips.com).



## 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.

## Alive in You – High School Youth Ministry Mission Trip

Registrations are now open for the Alive in You Mission Trip to Knoxville, Tenn., June 28-July 3, 2022.

The vision of Alive in You is to enable High School teen participants to open their hearts and allow Christ to become the center of their lives. The goal is to educate, motivate and provide young people with a life changing Catholic experience. Alive in You is grounded in the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church and we strive to provide the perfect balance of faith, service, education and fun. Incoming freshmen to outgoing seniors eligible to sign up. Young Adults are welcome but must take Protecting God's Children in order to go. Typical work may include: painting, simple building projects, landscaping, working at a food pantry or social service organization, working with children at a low income day care, etc. Chaperones needed.

We will be having an information night on Wednesday, February 16, at 7:00 pm. Registration forms can be found online at [stapostle.org](http://stapostle.org). Contact Dorothy Grantham for more information at 630.852.3303, x117 or [ym@stapostle.org](mailto:ym@stapostle.org).



## HS Youth Ministry Calendar at a Glance

### Sunday, January 30

*Journey Parent/Youth Night – Speaker Roy Petitfils* | 7:00 pm in Church or 2:00 pm at St. Margaret Mary

### Thursday, February 3

*LIFE Team Meeting* | 6:30 pm

### Saturday, February 5

*Journey Parent/Youth Event – Mary Latham – More Good!* | 8:30-9:45 am

### Sunday, February 6

*LIFE Retreat Gathering for Greater online Retreat youth* | 1:00–3:00pm, Zoom

### Tuesday, February 7

*Journey Parent/Youth Event – Mary Latham –More Good!* | 7:15–8:30 pm

### Wednesday, February 16

*Mission Trip Information Meeting* | 7:00 pm

# Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice



## Gift Cards for Care Pantry Families Wow, St. Thomas

The St. Thomas community was extremely generous with monetary donations and donations of gift cards. \$11,965 was collected. Thank you for sharing your resources with families who utilize the Care Pantry. The gift cards were given to Care Pantry families at the drive-thru food distribution December 21. The cards provided families an opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts for their children. Thank you, St. Thomas!



## Thank You from Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry

Dear St. Thomas Apostle Church,  
Please accept our sincere Thank You for the generous Christmas meat in support of the Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry. We are so grateful for the generosity to our community and the support for our mission. Simply said, because of your support, we can maintain our commitment to our community to relieve hunger and nourish lives.

Sincerely,  
Diane Renner, Executive Director

## Reflection and Prayer to End Human Trafficking

*Human trafficking destroys the lives of many of our sisters and brothers. January 11 was National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The Sisters of St. Joseph prepared a reflection and 29-day prayer intention calendar that provides awareness of the many facets of human trafficking. It also presents a number of human trafficking myths and realities. To view and print out the entire calendar, go to the St. Thomas website and enter "Human Trafficking" in the search window.*

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in southern Sudan in 1869. As a young girl, she was kidnapped and sold into slavery. She was treated brutally by her captors as she was sold and resold. She did not remember her name. Bakhita, which means "fortunate one," was the name given to her by her kidnappers.

### Daily Prayer

*God of hope and peace, touch our hearts and energize our ongoing efforts in abolishing human trafficking, a heinous crime against humanity, so that every victim is freed and every survivor's life renewed. You blessed St. Josephine Bakhita of Sudan with compassion for others. May her prayers comfort and strengthen the women, men and children who are in search of freedom.*

*We ask for transformation of heart for those who inflict pain, anguish and grief on our vulnerable sisters and brothers. Give us generosity to stand in solidarity with others so that together we heal the hearts and lives of all Your people. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen.*

### Myth and Reality

**Myth:** Human trafficking only happens in illegal or underground industries."

**Reality:** Human trafficking cases have been reported and prosecuted in various industries including restaurants, cleaning services, construction, factories and more.

**Myth:** All human trafficking involves sex.

**Reality:** Experts believe that worldwide there are more situations of labor trafficking than of sex trafficking, but there is much wider awareness of sex trafficking in the U.S. than of labor trafficking.

### Our awareness can save victims.

If we see and/or suspect something is wrong, we are urged to call the National Hotline. (Hotline: 888.3737.888, Textline: 233.733)



St. Josephine Bakhita

## Sanctity of Life Marie-Ange Ogoudou Reflection

Marie-Ange was born in the West African country of Benin. When she was a teenager, her family moved to France. She went to school there and became a medical doctor. She and her family (husband Abraham and children Melissa and Adam) have been St. Thomas parishioners since 2017.

Marie-Ange provided the homily time reflection at the Masses last weekend on the sanctity of life. We thank her for sharing her personal and professional thoughts with our community. To read the complete reflection, click [here](#). Below are excerpts from Marie-Ange's reflection.



The sanctity of human life, the God-given dignity, wonder and worth of every single one of us, begins at conception. The boy or girl on the 10-week ultrasound is just as massively and beautifully precious to God as the 4-year-old girl or the 85-year-old man. If we are pro-life, we are pro-life from the womb to the tomb. It means that we not only advocate for the social justice of the unborn, but we are also on the life side of any social issues related to human dignity.

The black and white labels of pro-life and pro-choice pit people against each other as if they are on two different teams. There should be a shift from conflict to conversation about the sanctity of life. We are all children of the same Father, we are one body, not enemies. We should not contribute to the conflict.

If you ever question yourself about God's view on abortion try to reflect on the birth of Jesus ... Almost all the reasons why a woman would believe she needed to abort are found in the story of the nativity.

God is good and there is always hope even when circumstances seem hopeless or out of control. We must provide women in these circumstances with hope and practical help. There are three options.

What can we do? We can support pregnancy centers, like Waterleaf, that provide services to women with unplanned pregnancies.

Every life is sacred and our God is loving and merciful. May He continue to help open our eyes to the inherent value of life in all its forms.

### Swaddling Project Results Thank You, St. Thomas!

The St. Thomas Pro-Life committee thanks you for your generous monetary and gift card donations to our annual Christmas Swaddling Project.

Gift cards totaling \$1,705 were distributed to Waterleaf Women's Center in Aurora, Birthright of Joliet and six locations of Avenue Women's Center.

Because of your kindness, young women facing unplanned pregnancies will receive little gifts of encouragement as they choose life for their babies. May God bless you for your generosity.



## Food Donations for Care Pantry

Drive-thru donations accepted Tuesday, February 8

Bring donations to St. Thomas on Tuesday, February 8 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.

- Side dish
- Tomato products – diced, chopped, stewed, etc.
- Paper products – toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex
- Bar soap
- Cereal

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



## Blood Pressure Screening

Blood Pressure Screening is available next weekend, February 6 after the 9:30 and 11:15 am Sunday Masses.

The screening sites are the first office on the right (Deacon's office) and the second office on the right (Parish Nurse Office) as you enter the west wing of the Church.

No appointment or doctor's order needed.



## Save the Date

Mark your calendars for the next St. Thomas Blood Drive that will be held Saturday, March 5.

Watch the bulletin and St. Thomas website for more details.

## From the Office of the Parish Nurse Difficulty Seeing at Night? Try These Tips to Cope

### How our night vision changes

We need at least a little bit of light (like moonlight) to see in the dark. We also need the ability to make use of that light; the eye collects and focuses the light and sends signals to the brain, which translates the light into images. Age-related changes can affect this process. Here are some examples:

- **We lose certain light-sensitive eye cells (photoreceptors).** Very sensitive photoreceptors called rods are essential for night vision. The number of rods in our eyes diminishes with age.
- **Our pupils get smaller.** The pupils – small openings that look like black dots – allow light to enter the eyes. The size of the pupil (and amount of light that enters) is controlled by muscles in the iris (the colorful part of the eye). “These muscles weaken with age, making the pupils smaller and allowing less light into the eyes. For this reason, you need more light to see comfortably,” explains Dr. Haley Italia an optometrist at Harvard-affiliated Massachusetts Eye and Ear.
- **Our eyes react more slowly to changes in light.** At any age, the photoreceptors need time to adjust after we look into bright headlights or when we walk into a dark room from a bright room. In older people, this process takes longer.
- **Our eye lenses get cloudy.** “The lens inside each eye goes through microscopic changes over time that ultimately lead to a clouded lens called a cataract. Even the early changes, before there is a cataract, cause light to scatter as it enters the eye, reducing the quality of vision or causing glare around headlights or streetlights,” Dr. Italia notes.
- **Our eyes get dryer.** We make fewer tears when we're older, which can irritate the outer surface of the eye (the cornea) and scatter incoming light. “Dry eyes are especially noticeable at the end of the day and can cause glare or blurry vision at night,” Dr. Italia says.
- **Our vision worsens.** The quality of vision decreases with age, which can make it harder to see at night. “Even if you're lucky and still have 20/20 vision when you're 70, it probably won't be as crisp as it was 50 years ago. Your remaining photoreceptors are less densely packed and less able to discern fine detail,” Dr. Italia notes.



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE  
St. Thomas the Apostle

Resource: Harvard Health Letter February 2022

## Pastoral Care Resources

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

### Health and Counseling Resources

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

## From the Behavioral Health Ministry New Year's Poll on Mental Health 2022

Washington, Dec. 20, 2021/ PRNewswire

As 2021 drew to a close, more than one in four Americans (26 percent) or about 67 million adults say that next year, improving their mental health is on their minds, and just over one-third (37 percent) say they are anxious about their mental health to start the new year.

Among those making resolutions focused on mental health:

**53%** will meditate

**37%** plan to see a therapist

**35%** will take a break from social media

**32%** will journal

**26%** will use a mental health app

**20%** plan to specifically see a psychiatrist.

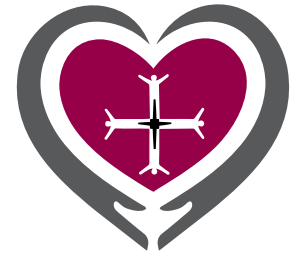
Heading into this New Year, Americans are, overall, more likely to grade their mental health as excellent, good, fair or poor. However, compared to White and Hispanic adults, adults who are Black or of another race or ethnicity are more likely to grade their mental health in 2021 as fair or poor.

The findings are from the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) Health Minds Monthly, a poll conducted by Morning Consult. The New Year's poll was fielded December 6–8, 2021, among a nationally representative sample of 2,119 adults.

"The new calendar year for many symbolized a time for renewal, for trying new things and for some, new beginnings," said APA President Vivian Pender, M.D.

"To see one in four Americans focusing on their mental health in this moment is important and encouraging" said APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, M.D., M.P.A. "That said, 2022 will bring challenges and people it is important to take steps to manage mental health and cope with the uncertainty we face."

Source: American Psychiatric Association



## PASTORAL CARE

St. Thomas the Apostle

### Help Wanted

#### Part-time Director of Pastoral Care and Nursing

*St. Thomas is looking for a part-time Director of Pastoral Care and Nursing.*

**Position Goal:** To continue the healing mission of Jesus

Promote holistic health (physical, psychological, social and spiritual) by providing leadership in identifying and responding to the holistic health needs of the parish. Work collaboratively with other departments, Pastoral Care staff and volunteer leaders to ensure volunteers are trained, developed and supported in their ministry roles. Oversee preparation and administration of the department budget. Meet with individuals seeking support in their holistic needs, and provide professional referrals as needed.

#### Pastoral Care Ministries Include:

Health Ministry (including blood pressure screenings)

- Ministers of Care (Eucharistic visits)
- Behavioral Health
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Prayer Network
- Rosary Ministry
- Wellspring Education (in collaboration with Adult Faith Formation)

This position is a 25 hour per week non-benefitted, salaried position reporting to the pastor. The ideal candidate is a currently licensed registered nurse in good standing with the State of Illinois and has at least three years experience as a spiritually grounded servant-leader.

Please send a resume and cover letter to [jsimmons@stapostle.org](mailto:jsimmons@stapostle.org).

### PrimeTime

## A Walk Down Memory Lane

St. Thomas seniors are invited to the Lighthouse on Tuesday, February 15 at 10:00 am for "A Walk Down Memory Lane," presented by ... everyone in the room.

Bring a personal or family heirloom that is meaningful to you and about which you can share a memory. It won't matter whether your treasure is large or small, costly or handmade, as long as it is important to you and your story.

This is an excellent opportunity to bring a friend or come for the first time. We will be looking forward to hearing your story and seeing your memory.



# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, January 31

4:30–5:15 pm Jammers and Youth Choir, Cana  
 7:00–8:15 pm Confirmation Class, Senior Center  
 7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE at All Saints Academy

### Tuesday, February 1

10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry Food Distribution, Outside  
 4:00–6:00 pm Second Grade RE Table Presentation, Gym  
 4:30–5:45 pm RE at St. Thomas  
 7:00–8:30 pm Wellspring Zoom  
 7:00–8:30 pm Voices of Faith, Church

### Wednesday, February 2

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center  
 6:30–8:30 pm Pax Christi, Cana  
 7:00–8:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul, Lighthouse

### Thursday, February 3

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

### Friday, February 4

9:00 am–12:00 pm Adoration/Benediction

### Saturday, February 5

8:30–11:45 am RE at All Saints Academy  
 8:30–9:30 am Middle School Speaker, Gym  
 9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Cana  
 1:00–2:00 pm Anointing of the Sick Mass, Church  
 3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Chapel  
 4:30–5:30 pm Third grade Mass, Church

### Sunday, February 6

9:30–10:30 am Boy Scout Mass, Church  
 10:30 am–1:00 pm Blood Pressure Screening, West Wing  
 7:00–8:30 pm Journey 1, Emmaus and Galilee  
 7:00–8:15 pm Confirmation Class, Ministry Center

## Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

### Weekly Sunday Offertory

January 16, 2022	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$8,063
Credit Card Online Giving (reported monthly)	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$11,215
Total for the week	\$19,278
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$1,021,081
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$35,210
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$973,515
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$47,566
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	58%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$724,519

This week, the Sunday collection is \$47,566 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$129 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

## Notes on the Collection Report

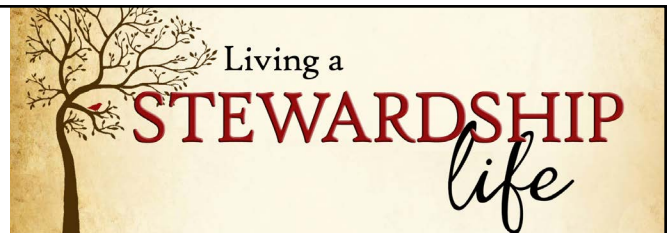
Each week, business office staff prepare a summary of Sunday Stewardship collections for the week. For simplicity in the report, the weekly Sunday budget (goal) is our annual goal divided by 52 weeks. Actual giving is strongly seasonal, with December and Lent higher than average, and May through August lower than the average. Our collection reports early in the calendar year show a favorable variance due to seasonality in giving.

We are very grateful for our many faithful parishioners who support the parish through their sacrificial giving, helping St. Thomas continue its mission to bring Christ to the world.

In John's Gospel he tells the story of Jesus summoned to the home of Mary, Martha and Lazarus and then proceeds to raise Lazarus from the dead. The other part of that story is what was going on with Mary and Martha. Mary sits by his feet listening to his teaching. Meanwhile Martha is in the kitchen, preparing the food for the all those who have come to bring condolences to the sisters and those who have accompanied Jesus. Martha has quite a task and was frustrated with her tasks at the time and with Mary. We tend to focus on the rivalry of the sisters, but, perhaps, we should focus on their gifts.

Martha's gift was that of hospitality. Her gift was one of making guests feel included and welcomed. She prepared quite a feast, it is told, but more importantly she probably made everyone feel special. That is an important gift. Mary, meanwhile, by sitting by Jesus' feet, was able to demonstrate a gift of learning. She was able to set an example for all by listening to Jesus' teachings. One would like to think that she later shared what she heard with her sister.




We all have unique gifts. When we share these gifts, it should not be a competition. At every moment there is an opportunity to recognize our gifts and be willing to share them without fear of our gifts not being worthy. Remember this as you determine what gifts you have and how you can share them.



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