

# St. Thomas

MARCH 6, 2022 — FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

“YOU SHALL NOT PUT THE LORD, YOUR GOD, TO THE TEST.”

LUKE 4:12



**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT**  
MARCH 6, 2022

# 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.

**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 Resources:** Contact Felicia Lawlor, Faith Community Nurse, 630.355.8980, x104.

**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,

In the Letter to the Hebrews, the author writes the following about Jesus; "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin." Jesus first showed His love for us through His birth. Today's gospel describes Jesus continuing to show His love

for us by showing us that a fellow human being, even when He was weak from hunger, was able to stand up to evil.

The temptation for evil comes in many shapes and forms. Our computers and cell phones can be temptations for evil. Let's believe and trust that, especially in our moments of weakness, our Lord is lovingly with us as He encourages us to turn away from the evil of sin. As the author of the Letter to the Hebrews also wrote, "Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Let's especially remember the word "mercy" for the times we give in to temptation; mercy which our loving Lord is eager to share with us whenever we ask.

*Last Sunday, February 27, Bishop Hicks was with us to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for sixty-one of our young people from our parish. Congratulations to them and their families. Always remember that they are not future members of our Church. They **are** our Church.*

In the Word,

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

## A Note from Fr. Danaher about his Retirement

Dear Parish Family,

In the Joliet diocese, priests are allowed to retire when they reach the age of 70, which I will be in July. I wrote to Bishop Hicks, who finds it hard to believe that I'm 70, but nevertheless he has given me his approval to retire at the end of June. Our new pastor is Father Peter Infanger who is currently the associate pastor of St. Walter Parish in Roselle. Father Peter will begin his pastorate on July 1.

I will make a more formal farewell during my last weekend, June 25–26. I want to thank all of you for helping me to be pastor for all of you, including those of you who are still die-hard Cub fans.

In the Word,

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

## 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 March 12–13

### Saturday, March 12

4:30 pm: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

### Sunday, March 13

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

9:30 am: Fr. Bill Etheredge

11:15 am: Fr. Bill Etheredge

*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



## First Sunday of Lent

March 6, 2022

*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.*

— Romans 10:8

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — The Israelites show their faith by offering the LORD first fruits of the products of their new land (Deuteronomy 26:4-10).

**Psalm** — Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble (Psalm 91).

**Second Reading** — All who express faith in the risen Christ and confess that he is Lord will be saved (Romans 10:8-13).

**Gospel** — Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit and was tempted (Luke 4:1-13).

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:** Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

**Tuesday:** Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15

**Wednesday:** Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32

**Thursday:** Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12

**Friday:** Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26

**Saturday:** Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

**Sunday:** Gn 15:5-12, 17-18; Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14;  
Phil 3:17 — 4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]; Lk 9:28b-36

## Reflecting on the Readings ...

Trust. Trouble. Temptation. The Israelites remembered and trusted in God's constant, guiding presence and gave back to God the first fruits of the land. The psalmist trusted God would be present in times of trouble. Jesus survived temptation in the desert, only by trusting in God. In whom or in what do we place our trust when we are troubled and tempted?

## Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

### Monday, March 7, 2021

*Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs*

8:30 am †Don Roth, by Audrey Easton

### Tuesday, March 8, 2021

*St. John of God, Religious*

8:30 am †Kenneth Thurman, by Jessica Laughlin

### Wednesday, March 9, 2021

*St. Frances of Rome, Religious*

8:30 am The People of St. Thomas the Apostle

### Thursday, March 10, 2021

*Lenten Weekday*

8:30 am †Dorothy Pristo, by The Dunning Family

### Friday, March 11, 2021

*Lenten Weekday*

8:30 am The Homeless

### Saturday, March 12, 2022

*Lenten Weekday*

8:30 am The Unemployed

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Ann and Michael Souronis, by Mike and Margie Souronis

†John Vesper, by Mark Vesper

### Sunday, March 13, 2022

*Second Sunday of Lent*

8:00 am †Bernice Wiedenski, by The Przekwas Family

9:30 am †Joe Galvin, by Audrey Easton

11:15 am Healing for Michael Strater, by Matt and Beth McAndrews

## Prayer

*May today there be peace within.*

*May you trust your highest power*

*that you are exactly where you are meant to be.*

*May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.*

*May you use those gifts that you have received,*

*and pass on the love that has been given to you . . .*

*May you be content knowing you are a child of God . . .*

*Let this presence settle into our bones, and allow your soul  
the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love.*

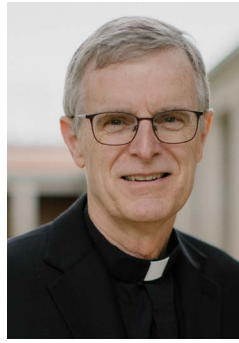
*It is there for each and every one of you.*

*Amen.*

## Introducing our New Pastor

With Fr. Danaher retiring this summer, St. Thomas will have a new pastor starting July 1. Below is a brief introduction from Fr. Peter Infanger.

Hi! My name is Fr. Peter Infanger. I am completing two years as a priest at Saint Walter in Roselle. Prior to that I was a deacon for one year at Saint Matthew in Glendale Heights and before that an intern at Saint Mary in Mokena. I am a second vocation. I was married for 34 years until my wife, Michelle, died from cancer nine years ago. I have two sons. Michael is married to Amy and have three children: Rosemary, 6, Theodore, 3, and Celia, one month. They live in Park Ridge. My son Andrew is a priest for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. I was raised in the Northeast United States and raised my family in St. Louis. I worked in Product Management/Marketing at Procter & Gamble, Ralston Purina and ConAgra Foods for 32 years.



## Wedding Hosts Needed!

The Sacrament of Marriage is a beautiful gift of grace given to many of our St. Thomas the Apostle community members. Ministers are needed to assist couples with liturgical preparations for their wedding day!

Participation is only 3-4 times a year, requiring only a short conversation with the couples prior to leading the rehearsal and wedding liturgy. A beautiful ministry for couples, as well as single persons. Training is required and provided.

Be a cheery face of St. Thomas to these engaged couples!

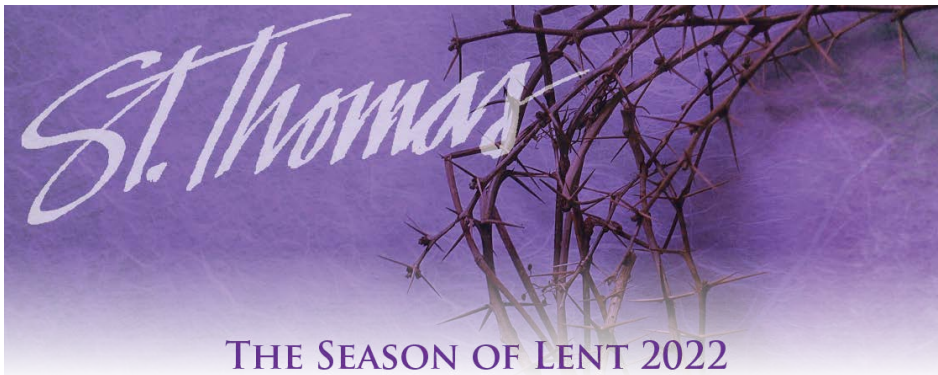
## Monstrance

St. Thomas the Apostle has been blessed with a new monstrance!

A monstrance is a sacred vessel for the Eucharist — used during the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

After 30 years using our prior monstrance, this new vessel of gold and olive wood was purchased from Italy through donations by anonymous parishioners.

Participate in Stations of the Cross with Eucharistic Adoration each Friday of Lent for an opportunity to view and worship with the Monstrance!



## Stations of the Cross

*Fridays of Lent*

7:00 pm | Church

The Way of the Cross has always been a powerful and popular part of the faith tradition and devotional life for Catholics throughout the ages. The early practice of Christians attempting to retrace and walk the path of Jesus has been a treasured way to commemorate the Passion and Death of Christ.

This year, St. Thomas the Apostle is adding Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to the Stations of the Cross. Beginning worship with the Exposition of the Eucharist, Stations of the Cross will provide prayer for the period of Eucharistic Adoration. The evening will close with Benediction.

### March 18, April 1

Through the simple, intimate, yet powerful words of *Everyone's Way of the Cross*, those on the journey are invited to grow closer to Christ by embracing the mystery of suffering in the world. Music provides a transitional accompaniment between stations.

### March 11, March 25, April 8

The *Scriptural Stations of the Cross* are based on those celebrated by Saint Pope John Paul II on Good Friday in 1991. They are an alternative to the traditional stations as a way of more deeply reflecting on the Scriptural accounts of Christ's Passion. Prayerful silence accompanies the transition between stations.

For the complete list of all of the activities during Lent at St. Thomas, please click [here](#).

## Easter Environment/Flower Fund

You are invited to make a donation toward Easter Environment/Flower Fund in recognition of a loved one. The names of these individuals will be on a display board at the Easter Masses.

A suggested donation of \$10 per name (exact change or check made payable to St. Thomas the Apostle) should be remitted with the order form (click [here](#) for form). The completed form and payment should be placed in an envelope, to the "Attn of Flower Fund" and can be mailed in, brought in through Door A during the building open hours or placed in the offertory collection basket.

Donations must be received by Tuesday, April 5.

# Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

## Participate in the Synod

It's here! The questionnaire for submitting input on the topics raised for the upcoming Synod of Bishops is now available on the parish website at [stapostle.org](http://stapostle.org). Click **here** for the survey.

The survey is completely anonymous and all answers are welcome. Pope Francis has urged us to gather input from all people — Catholic, Christian, interfaith partners, non-practicing Catholics, agnostics and atheists.

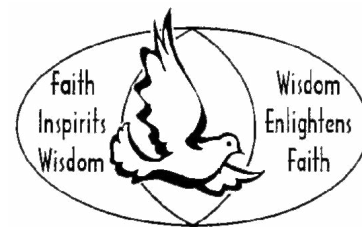
How can the Church meet people wherever they are, whether that is on the path of faith, seeking a path for their lives or even skipping the path altogether? After you've filled out the questionnaire yourself, talk with — listen carefully to — everyone you know about one or more of these topics and note their responses. Then forward them to Chari Rosales at [crosales@stapostle.org](mailto:crosales@stapostle.org).

Our parish needs YOU. Our diocese needs YOU. Pope Francis needs YOU. Please answer the call.



## C.A.R.E. CORNER

St. Ambrose was born around the year 340 into a wealthy and aristocratic Christian family in Gaul. He studied law and had a promising career in government. He was appointed governor of his province in Italy by the Emperor. Ambrose insisted on Church autonomy in sacred matters. He made a clear distinction between what was Caesar's (the state) and what was God's (the Church). In 374, he was unanimously elected as the Bishop of Milan, though he first had to be baptized and ordained. So he applied himself to the study of theology and Scripture and to personal transformation.



Ambrose was very persuasive, and his homilies won many to the faith — even Augustine — who he inspired to be baptized and undergo conversion. He even demanded and received a very public penance from an Emperor. He was very personally involved with his flock, instructing those learning about the faith and giving conferences for priests on topics of wisdom and virtues. He wrote hymns in Latin and was among the first Church leaders to encourage congregational singing. Ambrose died in the year 397 after leading his flock for 23 years. Ambrose is remembered as an eloquent preacher, a model Bishop and a pastoral Doctor. He was a great defender of the true faith of the Church. He used all his talents on behalf of the Church and is considered one of the West's four greatest Doctors of the Church. In fact, he was one of the first four saints to be named a Doctor, and he is known as the Doctor of Divine Worship.

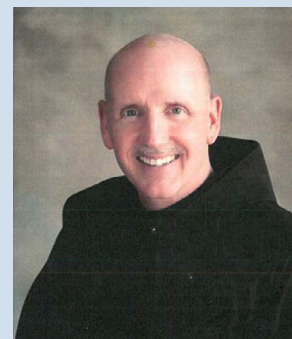
## Parish Mission March 27-29 with Fr. Ed Shea

Ready for a spiritual pick-me-up? Make plans now to attend the upcoming Parish Mission based on the beloved Prayer of St. Francis, presented by Franciscan Father Ed Shea, OFM:

**Lord, Make Me a Channel of Your Peace**  
March 27–29, 2022

**Sunday, March 27 | 7:00 pm** "Where there is Doubt ... Faith"  
**Monday, March 28 | 7:00 pm** "Where there is Injury ... Pardon"  
**Tuesday, March 29 | 7:00 pm** "Where there is Despair ... Hope"

Check out the St. Thomas website for more information.





**St. Joe to Go**  
2022



St. Thomas the Apostle's  
St. Joseph Table Committee  
presents...

## ***St. Joe to Go Drive Thru Dinner***

**When:** Saturday, March 19, 2022

**Pick Up Time:** 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm

**Cost:** \$10 per meal

***MANGIA!!***

Let's celebrate St. Joseph, the "Abba" of Jesus and the Patron of God's family. As Joseph taught Jesus to be generous, we are working for justice for the poor.

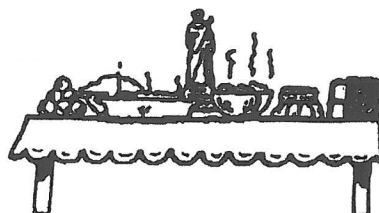
The meal includes pasta, salad, bread and dessert.  
*Sign up on the St. Thomas website ([stapostle.org](http://stapostle.org))  
with your name, phone number and number of meals.*

Funds collected over and above costs will be distributed to the following:

**St. Thomas Food Pantry**  
**St. Thomas Cares**  
**St. Vincent DePaul Society.**

Cash or check made out to St. Thomas the Apostle with "Pasta" in the memo field will be accepted. A payment table will be outside the Gathering Area doors. After payment is collected, you will drive around the back of the Ministry Center to the Care Pantry entrance doors. Your meal(s) will be brought to your vehicle.

Pre-orders are *strongly* encouraged.



**Contact Information:**

St. Thomas the Apostle • 1500 Brookdale Rd. • Naperville IL 60563 • 630-355-8980 • [st.josephstable@yahoo.com](mailto:st.josephstable@yahoo.com)



## Registration for 2022-2023 Now Open

If you are interested in an excellent education grounded in faith, it is not too late to find out more about All Saints for your preschool through grade 8 son or daughter.

Schedule a personal tour online at [ascacademy.org](http://ascacademy.org). Registration is open for the 2022-2023 school year. All Saints was full and waitlisted at many grade levels this current school year, so do not delay in planning your visit to find out whether All Saints will be a good fit for your child(ren).

Our Growing Saints Early Childhood Academy preschool program offers parents of three and four year olds a variety of full and half day programs to meet their student and family needs in a safe and nurturing environment.

### At All Saints, our youngest preschool Saints will discover:

- Challenging academics — Our preschool curriculum includes Everyday Math (University of Chicago), World of Wonders Language Arts (McGraw Hill) and Handwriting without Tears taught in an elementary school setting with degreed and licensed professional educators.
- Art, Spanish enrichment, music and physical education specials taught by our K–8 teaching staff.
- Character and virtue building coupled with faith formation — We partner with our parents to form young men and women with good, kind and compassionate hearts.
- End-to-end education and care with full and half days, and before and after school care during the school year.
- Large, bright, colorful and inviting classrooms. All Saints also has a full playground with padded surface and our special Growing Saints Playscape just for preschoolers.
- Opportunities for free, creative and guided play experiences along with strong social-emotional development.

### What else makes All Saints desirable for today's families?

We offer small class sizes where your child will be known, with two to three sections at every grade level, a welcoming and diverse school community, along with high level academics where the bar is set high for all students. Let the journey begin!



# Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

## Important Dates

### ELEMENTARY RE

**March 8, 22 and April 5**

Tuesday elementary RE classes meet

*April 5 is the last class.*

**March 12, 19**

Saturday elementary RE classes meet

*March 19 is the last class.*

### MIDDLE SCHOOL RE

**March 7, 14, 21**

Monday middle school RE classes meet.

**March 12.19**

Saturday middle school RE classes meet.



St. Thomas the Apostle

**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**



## Teens with Character

Middle school students ... Teens with Character will meet Sunday, March 13, from 4:30–6:00 pm at St. Thomas.

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 ...

What are some temptations you experience?



## Girl Scout Mass

Are you a Girl Scout? The Girl Scout Mass is on Sunday, March 6, 2022, at 9:30 am. Please contact Lorraine Katz at [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org) for more information.

## First Communion Prayer Service

The March First Communion Family Prayer Service is “It’s About Celebrating in the Breaking of the Bread.” The prayer service is Thursday, March 10 at 7:00 pm. Please see email to RSVP for the prayer service. Please RSVP 24 hours before the event. Please bring your “My Mass Booklet” to the prayer session.

## First Reconciliation Services Information

First Reconciliation Family Services for fourth and fifth graders are at the church on Saturday, March 12 or 19 at 1:00 pm. Please make reservations online for the best date for your First Reconciliation service. Please use the link and password in your email. Please contact the Faith Formation Office at [readmin@stapostle.org](mailto:readmin@stapostle.org) or 630.305.6318 or Lorraine Katz at [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x109 if you have any questions.

Please pray for these children and their families that they may always know the love and forgiveness that God offers through this sacrament. May we too, know the joy of forgiveness that comes with this healing sacrament. Please contact the Faith Formation Office for more information about the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## Family Activities During Lent

All Elementary Religious Education families, please check your child’s Religious Education folder for a Family Lenten Calendar to do together during Lent. Many grades have a Lenten activity to do with your child as well in their folders. Families are also invited to walk the Stations of the Cross outside at St. Thomas or inside the church. A prayer guide is available leading your family through each station. It is geared for children. Please see the faith formation office or welcome desk in the gathering area to borrow a guide.



## Middle 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, 2022. 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 ... click [here](#) to register as soon as possible!

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).



## Living Stations of the Cross

Middle school students are invited to be part of the Living Stations of the Cross prayer service Good Friday, April 15, at 12:00 pm. The Stations are prayerfully 'acted out' with still poses. This is an opportunity to come to a deeper understanding of the gift of the Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us. Practices will be held weekly beginning in mid-March. The day and time of practices will be decided based on the availability of the Stations volunteers. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Peggy Goralski at [pgoralski@stapostle.org](mailto:pgoralski@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x123.

## Do-At-Home Family Faith Activity

Middle school families, if you are looking for a special way to mark the 40 days of Lent, consider the 'do-at-home' family faith activity. Supply packets for the activity will be available for pickup from the Religious Education Office starting March 1. This packet will contain the supplies needed for a project that will help to mark the 40 days of Lent in a special way for your family. Packets need to be reserved. To reserve your packet of supplies, contact Peggy Goralski at [pgoralski@stapostle.org](mailto:pgoralski@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x123.

## Middle School Families Invited to Come Together for Mass

Middle school students and their families are invited to a special celebration of Mass on Sunday, March 6, at 3:30 pm. Fr. Matt Lorenz will be the presider and homilist.

Come, pray and celebrate with us!



## 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.

Teens come share your faith through action on our Alive in you Mission Trip. 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.

Registration forms can be found [here](#). 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

**Thursday, March 10**  
*LIFE Community Night* | 6:30 pm

**Friday, March 18**  
*Online Journey Retreat*

# Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice



## Stamp Out Loneliness Help Incarcerated Women Connect with Their Families

Each year Companions Journeying Together (CJT) sends Mother's Day cards to incarcerated women in jails and prisons throughout Illinois. CJT provides a forum to personally and positively affect the emotional, spiritual and social lives of these women and their families.

Companions Journeying Together, Inc. does not need cards for the 2022 Mother's Day project. What is needed are postage stamps. There will be a collection box in the Gathering Area. Return all stamp donations by Monday, March 7.

## 2022 Lenten Project To Provide Food and Love

*"... whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40*

### Ertha's Orphanage Children

Each year, the Outreach and Social Justice Office selects a Lenten almsgiving project for the parish. This year we are returning to the 2019 project to provide food for one year for the children of Ertha's orphanage in Duchity, Haiti.

The need was great in 2019 ... and is even greater in 2022. The orphanage is still trying to recover from the devastating August earthquake damage to buildings. The large main building is damaged beyond repair and unsafe to live in. The second smaller building that has never been completed incurred some damage, but is habitable once repairs and additions are finished. Immediately after the earthquake, the children were sleeping in two large tents. A temporary shelter construction was subsequently completed. The children now live and sleep in very crowded conditions.

### The Goal

Assuring a minimum basic need (food) for one year would be a blessing to the 25 children of the orphanage. The goal is \$13,200. More information on the orphanage and the children will be provided throughout Lent.

### How to Help

- Please pick up a little brown box at the church exits and save your change during Lent to be returned by Easter Sunday.
- Checks can be written to "St. Thomas OSJ" with "Lenten Project" in the memo. They can be dropped in the weekend collection baskets or mailed to "St. Thomas OSJ."
- Donations can also be made online by clicking [here](#).



Daniella



MacKendy

## St. Thomas SVDP and St. Thomas Cares Mary's Story

Mary is a single mother for her two grandchildren. She has raised them since their birth. She is receiving no child support. The family was doing fine, paycheck to paycheck, until Mary lost weeks of work due to COVID and was nearly two months behind in her rent. St. Thomas Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP) partnered with Naperville Township and Loaves & Fishes to catch her up in her rent. As that was happening, Mary was involved in a car accident. Her insurance paid for the repair, but she did not have the \$250 deductible to get her car back. St. Thomas SVDP contacted St. Thomas Cares ... the deductible was paid.

### Mary's Thank You

*I wanted to reach out one last time and just say THANK YOU for the help that blessed me, plus your time and patience extended my way. I am so grateful for both the rent and deductible assistance given. God has never let me fall so low I can't rise and has always put exactly what I need in my path. My faith in him only grows stronger with each passing day that he cares for me and my needs. I've said it many times and will many more, Satan can take a lot from me but he cannot take my faith and love for Christ. Not today and not ever. People like you help build that faith stronger as I grow closer to him. Thanks, Thanks, Thanks! May God repay you in Heaven for your works.*

# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

## Lenten Prayer Vigil

A 40 Days for Life prayer vigil is being held from 7:00 am–7:00 pm daily, beginning March 2 and ending April 10. The vigil location is outside Waterleaf Women's Center across from Planned Parenthood (3051 E. New York Ave., Aurora). Parking is available on the south side of Waterleaf (3055 E. New York Ave., Aurora)

All are encouraged to participate any of the 40 days by simply going to the prayer vigil and spending an hour (or part of an hour) in prayer. Sign-up is optional (see below).

Learn more ... get involved ... and sign up for prayer times by visiting the campaign website: [www.40daysforlife.com/Aurora](http://www.40daysforlife.com/Aurora). The local contact for the event is Jeff Galush at 815.341.4808 or [jbgjn1010@comcast.net](mailto:jbgjn1010@comcast.net).

40 Days for Life is a beautiful opportunity to join others in peaceful prayer and keeping vigil. Through God, lives are changed during 40 Days for Life. When communities rally in this effort, God works miracles. The "no show" rate for abortion appointments increases dramatically while people are praying outside.

## Asian Americans and the Model Minority Myth

*On Saturday, March 12, from 1:00–3:00 pm, the St. Thomas Pax Christi Ministry is sponsoring a talk and dialogue with Hassan Chaudhry. The event will be held at St. Thomas. All are welcome.*

Mr. Hassan Chaudhry will explore how Asian Americans navigate life in a racialized world. He will address both Asian American privilege and oppression ... and how their unique position in society impacts their relationship with White America and Communities of Color.



Born biracial (Korean and Pakistani) in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., Hassan Chaudhry grew up struggling through the journey of his own racial identity. As a result, conversations around issues of diversity and culture have been both a necessity and a passion for him. Hassan has found himself in a wide range of settings, both Christian and secular, where these issues have been critical.

His life journey includes growing up in the diverse communities of the nation's capital, undergrad education at a PWI (Predominantly White Institution) and ten years working with underprivileged youth. He is now living in a mostly Mexican neighborhood with his wife and son. Hassan holds a dual Master's degree in Social Work and Public Health. He is currently the Manager of Program Evaluation at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls in Chicago.



## Food Donations for Care Pantry

*Drive-thru donations accepted Tuesday, March 8*

Bring donations to St. Thomas on Tuesday, March 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.

- Meat Meal in a Can
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Jello
- Canned Fruit
- Cereal
- Jiffy Mix
- Paper Towels/Kleenex

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

## “Comfort My People”

A Prayer Service for Healing  
Lost But Found

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”.*

*Matthew 11:28*

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

The prayer service will be held Wednesday, March 16, 2022, at 7:00 pm at St. Thomas.

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

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## From the Behavioral Health Ministry: Mental Health First Aid Training

St. Thomas the Apostle will be offering Mental Health First Aid Training taught by Diane McQueen.

**When:** Saturday, April 2, 2022  
9:00 am–4:00 pm

**Where:** St. Thomas

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

## From the Behavioral Health Ministry Excerpts from eNewsletter — February 2022

*Edward-Elmhurst Health. eehealth.org*

### How COVID-19 Has Impacted The Engagement of Social Media in Teens

*By: Jessica Butts, LSCW*

First it was a challenge to remove items from the school bathroom. Then a TikTok challenge urged students to slap a teacher. More recently, students were encouraged to bring a weapon to school, prompting some schools across the country to shut down for a day and forcing others to increase security measures.

The return to school after more than a year of remote learning for many students has come with its challenges as students, teachers and staff adjust to in-person learning while still dealing with COVID-19 concerns.

To say that life since the pandemic began has been challenging is an understatement. As many students returned to in-person learning this school year, we’re seeing just how much of an impact the pandemic has had on them.

As teens dealing with anxiety or the withdrawal from personal interactions look for other ways to connect, social media sites like TikTok, Snapchat or Facebook fill the gap. It is true that those sites have helped fill the need for social connection during times of isolation in this pandemic. We’ve also seen the negative side as more teenagers have turned to social media sites and became more emboldened in their comments or actions.

School administrators not only find themselves dealing with an increase in fights among students, but also the videos of those fights that inevitably appear on social media feeds moments after the fight.

### So what can we do?

First, look at the core reason why teens are using social media. Some may crave the approval of their peers. Others may be seeking fame and hope to be the next social media sensation. Some may just be looking to connect with friends.

Teens live in that “in between” state of life where they feel like grown-ups, but their brain is still developing. The prefrontal cortex, that area of the brain that helps with decision-making and understanding consequences, is not fully developed until the mid-20s. This contributes to teens often making choices without considering the consequences.

As we work with teens struggling to find their path, we can help them examine the motivators behind their actions and encourage them to find some balance in their social media use and how they interact with others.

Helping teens find safe ways to increase their interactions with others can also be helpful in moving them away from the negative influence of social media. While being in-person may cause some anxiety, working with teenagers to find ways to safely interact with others in-person, rather than through a social media app, can help them find balance in their life.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
St. Thomas the Apostle



## From the Office of the Parish Nurse Staying Hydrated

*Drinking enough fluids is important for everyday wellness, but it becomes a crucial element of care when you are sick.*

Staying hydrated helps the body's organs and muscles work properly. To stay hydrated, drink decaffeinated beverages (mainly water) throughout the day, not just when you're thirsty.

When you're sick with vomiting or diarrhea, it's even more important to drink water, as your body loses essential fluid it needs to function. Yet, it's not always easy to hydrate when you aren't feeling well ... nausea and fatigue can prevent you from wanting to swallow anything.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers advice to help you avoid dehydration when sick including:

- If you aren't eating well, drink liquids. Avoid alcohol or drinks with caffeine in them such as soft drinks, tea and coffee.
- Older adults and people with kidney problems should check with their doctor about safe amounts of liquid to drink when sick.
- Try clear fluids such as water, broth or sports drinks.
- Use a squeeze bottle or a straw if you're too weak to drink from a cup. Try sucking on ice chips or ice pops.
- Continue to nurse or bottle feed your baby. Babies get all the fluid they need from breastfeeding or formula

It's extremely important to avoid dehydration. Mild cases can be treated at home, but severe dehydration often requires hospitalization.

If you're dehydrated, it may not always be obvious. One telltale sign is dark yellow-colored urine. When you are hydrated enough, your urine will be clear or very pale yellow. Sometimes when you don't drink enough water, you can get a headache or migraine, too.

Call your primary care physician or visit Immediate Care if you notice these symptoms (in children or adults)

- Not able to make tears
- Producing less than a normal amount of urine. In babies, you may see fewer wet diapers or diapers that weigh less than normal.
- Dried-out skin that takes a long time to go back to position when pinched.
- Dry mouth or dry eyes
- Fast heartbeat
- Blood in the stool or in vomit
- A child with a fever for 12 or more hours who is not able to drink fluids, is throwing up or having diarrhea.
- The child may be cranky or irritable, hard to wake up, have little energy or appear "rag doll weak."

Resource: [eehealth.org](http://eehealth.org)



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE  
St. Thomas the Apostle



## March Open Meeting Sharing Wisdom

PrimeTime is inviting one and all to come March 15 at 10:00 am to the Lighthouse. This meeting is open to everyone regardless of age.

"Where is the Church heading, where should it be heading and how do we get there?"

Pope Francis has invited all of us to listen and consult with one another by participating in the Synod. The Synod survey is available on our St Thomas website and copies are available in the Gathering Area.

Perhaps you have looked at the survey and are unsure how to respond. Maybe you only want to answer some of the questions. We encourage you to come participate or just listen. Chari Rosales will be available to answer questions and clarify terminology. A summary of the discussion will be made available.

We look forward to your participation.



## Blood Pressure Screening this Weekend

Blood Pressure Screening is available Sunday, March 6 after the 9:30 and 11:15 am 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.

# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, March 7

7:00–9:00 pm Buildings and Grounds, Judea  
 7:00–8:00 pm Lenten Taize Prayer, Church  
 7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE at All Saints Academy

### Tuesday, March 8

9:00–10:00 am Care Pantry Drive Thru Donations, Outside  
 12:00–12:30 pm Lent Meditation, Chapel  
 4:30–5:45 pm RE at St. Thomas, Ministry Center  
 5:00–6:00 pm Care Pantry Drive Thru Donations, Outside  
 7:00–8:30 pm Voices of Faith, Church

### Wednesday, March 9

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center  
 4:30–5:30 pm Living Stations Practice, Church  
 7:15–8:45 pm Faith Formation Commission, Senior Center

### Thursday, March 10

9:15–11:15 am Thursday AM Bible Study, Senior Center  
 6:30–8:00 pm Life Meeting, Gym  
 7:00–8:30 pm First Communion Prayer Service, Church  
 7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

### Friday, March 11

7:00–8:00 pm Stations of the Cross, Church

### Saturday, March 12

8:30–11:45 am RE at All Saints Academy  
 9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Cana  
 9:00–11:00 am Ensemble Rehearsal, Lighthouse  
 12:00–3:00 pm Pax Christi, Lighthouse  
 1:00–3:00 pm RE First Reconciliation, Church  
 3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Chapel

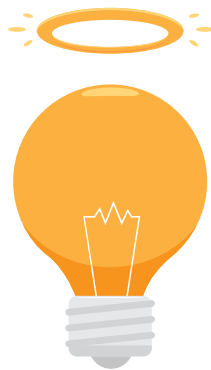
### Sunday, March 13

4:30–5:45 pm Journey 1, Lighthouse  
 4:30–6:00 pm Teens with Character, Gym  
 7:15–8:30 pm Journey 1, Lighthouse and Youth Center

## Have You Seen the Light?

Lighting in the church sanctuary has been a challenge for years. We are pleased to announce that soon, the church's original lighting system will be replaced with an LED system, complete with modern controls, energy savings and reliability.

A single unit was installed on the soffit to evaluate its light color and performance before finalizing the selection. The units to be installed will cast a whiter light, very similar to the old system. Supply chain problems have already affected the timeline of this overdue replacement project. Replacing the soffit lights is the first phase of this project. Please consider this your invitation to *come to Mass and see the light!*

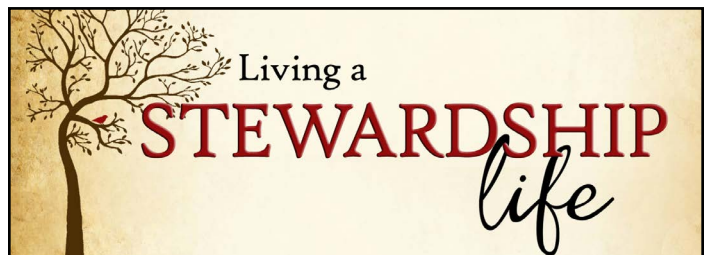


## Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

### Weekly Sunday Offertory

February 20, 2022	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$8,172
Credit Card Online Giving (reported monthly)	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	\$26,374
Mailed in and stock donations	\$1,500
Total for the week	\$36,046
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$1,167,369
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$34,334
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$1,141,362
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$26,007
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	67%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$578,231

This week, the Sunday collection is \$26,007 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$175 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.



The mission statement of St. Thomas the Apostle parish begins with, "Led by the Holy Spirit, rooted in the Eucharist, St. Thomas the Apostle strives to be an inclusive servant community ..."

One of our goals driven by that statement is to "Reach out to others in need with the unconditional love of Jesus." This year's theme for the Joliet Diocese's Annual Appeal is "Devoted to the Works of the Lord." We can connect our parish's Mission Statement and our goal very easily to the Catholic Ministry Annual Appeal theme.

Proceeds from the CMAA collection allows the Diocese (of which we are all members) to reach out to those in need through Catholic Charities, perhaps by providing food through mobile food pantries or help with housing. Proceeds provided help our Catholic schools like our school, All Saints Academy. And proceeds help our seminarians to finish their studies and provide us with our spiritual leaders for our parish in the future.

We are reaching out to you to complete your pledge cards and return them to St. Thomas. You can read our parish mission statement and our goals and then see how that encourages us to participate in this year's Catholic Ministry Annual Appeal.

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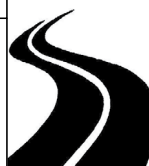
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