

St. Thomas

MARCH 13, 2022 — SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

PETER SAID TO JESUS,
“MASTER, IT IS GOOD THAT WE ARE HERE;
LET US MAKE THREE TENTS,
ONE FOR YOU, ONE FOR MOSES, AND ONE FOR ELIJAH.”

LUKE 9:33



SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 13, 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

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Samantha Delke, *Associate Director of Liturgy and Music*, x120, sdelke@stapostle.org

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Lorraine Katz, *Director of Religious Education*, x109, lkatz@stapostle.org
Jenni Kennedy, *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, REAdmin@stapostle.org
Geraldyn Parrillo, *Faith Formation Administrative Assistant*, x118, REAdmin@stapostle.org
Chari Rosales, *Director of Adult Education and RCIA*, x138, crosales@stapostle.org

Margie Marshall, *Principal at All Saints Catholic Academy*, 630.961.6125

Outreach and Social Justice

Sally Meno, *OSJ Associate*, x137, smeno@stapostle.org
Michael Ryder, *Director of Outreach and Social Justice*, x121, mryder@stapostle.org
Anne Schultz, *OSJ Partner*, x113, aschultz@stapostle.org

Pastoral Care

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Felicia Lawlor, *Faith Community Nurse*, x104, flawlor@stapostle.org

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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 today's gospel of Jesus' Transfiguration, we hear about two of the great men of the Old Testament, Moses and Elijah. We have all heard about Moses, either through our earliest days of religion class or the annual broadcast of the movie "The Ten Commandments." While Elijah might not be as well known to some, Elijah was also called by God to encourage the

people of Israel follow the laws of God.

Elijah lived 800 years before Jesus. His story can be found in the first and second chapters of the Book of Kings. He lived during the reign of a king named Ahab, at a time when the Jewish people had turned to pagan gods. Elijah told Ahab that, if he and the people did not repent, there would be a drought throughout the land. No one repented and there was a drought for three years. When Ahab accused Elijah of bringing trouble to Israel, Elijah replied: "I have not troubled Israel; but you, and your father's house, in that you have forsaken the commandments of the Lord."

So there they were with Jesus — Moses and Elijah — sent by God to encourage the people of Israel to return to the loving ways of the Lord. There they were, Moses and Elijah with the Son of God, who lived with us to encourage God's prized creation to turn away from sin and believe in God's mercy.

At the same time, Jesus was sent by God to encourage us to show that same mercy which has been shown to us; to faithfully follow the words of the Lord's Prayer which we pray daily, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

In the Word,

Fr. Danaher

How You Can Help Ukraine

With the increasing severity of the conflict in Ukraine, the St. Thomas the Apostle community has asked how we can help. Our collection on Ash Wednesday to support the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will provide assistance, but more support is needed! Catholic Relief Services is working to support families in need by providing safe shelter, hot meals, hygiene supplies, transport to safe areas, counseling support and more. Please click [here](#) to give a financial gift.



Thank you for supporting your sisters and brothers in need.

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 19–20

Saturday, March 19

4:30 pm: Matt Lorenz with Deacon Jim Breen

Sunday, March 20

8:00 am: Fr. Philip Danaher with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

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

11:15 am: Fr. Bob Colaresi with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

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.



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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Second Sunday of Lent

March 13, 2022

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?
— Psalm 27:1

Readings for Today

First Reading — The Lord made a covenant with his faithful servant, Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land” (Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18).

Psalm — The Lord is my light and my salvation (Psalm 27).

Second Reading — We await the Lord Jesus, who will change us to conform with his glorified body (Philippians 3:17 — 4:1 [3:20 — 4:1]).

Gospel — Peter, James, and John witness the transfiguration of Jesus on the mountain (Luke 9:28b-36).

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: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

Alternate readings (Year A):

Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8;

Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

Monday, March 13, 2022

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am †Benjamin Parrilli, by Parrilli Family

Tuesday, March 14, 2022

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am †Aerielle Arguellas, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

Wednesday, March 15, 2022

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am †William Raef, by Battisto Family

Thursday, March 16, 2022

St. Patrick, Bishop

8:30 am †Jocelyn N. See, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

Friday, March 17, 2022

St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:30 am †Anne Battisto, by Battisto Family

Saturday, March 18, 2022

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am Belen Trinidad Ignacio, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Tom Ferguson, by Ron and Lynn DeNicolo

†Joseph Kybartas, by Kathy Singer and Family

Sunday, March 19, 2022

Third Sunday of Lent

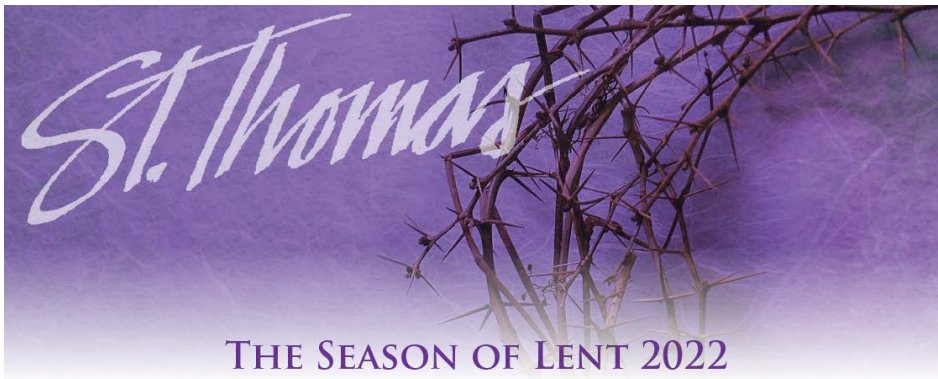
8:00 am †Donalyn Kerr, by Przekwas Family

9:30 am †Joe Galvin, by Bob and Loretta Kurland

†Bernice Wiedenski, by Currier and Martin Girls

Reflecting on the Readings ...

Our readings today remind us to keep our eyes fixed on heaven. God asks Abram to look up at the sky and count the stars. Philippians reminds us our citizenship is in heaven. Peter, James and John's eyes are fixed heavenward as they climb the mountain and witness Jesus' transfiguration. Where are our eyes fixed? On our electronics, on what others have? Today, let us ask for the grace to fix our eyes and hearts heavenward.



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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday, March 28

7:00 pm | Church

This opportunity for God's healing mercy is interwoven with our parish mission. Through this form of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, all gather in prayer and an examination of conscience as a community. Then individually receive penance and absolution after confession one-on-one with a priest.

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

Update from Deacon Larry

In July of 2021, I was diagnosed with two large follicular lymphomas that evolved into a diffuse large B-cell Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. After chemotherapy that lasted into early this year, my cancer has been declared in full remission. However, the treatment has left me very weak and my immune system compromised. With the need to gain strength, and the lingering effects of COVID-19 and its variants, it is unlikely I will be cleared to resume ministry until early July of this year.

I want to thank the many people who prayed for my recovery, sent emails, notes and cards. They have all been very much appreciated. God is good, all the time.

Peace, Shalom, Salaam.
Deacon Larry

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. Contact Diane McQueen at 630.355.8980, x101 or dmcqueen@stapostle.org for more information or to register.

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!

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. 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. Please click [here](#) for the order form.

Faith and Formation Commission — Adult

In-Person Listening Session

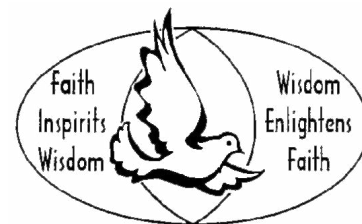
We're all ears! An in-person listening session will be held Monday, April 4 at 7:00 pm in the Gym to give everyone — Catholic (practicing or not), other denominations or faiths, atheists or agnostics — a voice in the preparation of the worldwide Synod of Bishops to be held in 2023. Pope Francis has asked that EVERYONE have an opportunity to reflect on the Church and her mission. Where is the Church heading now? Where should it be heading? How do we get there together? Tell us what's on your mind and in your hearts.

If you've not yet had an opportunity to give your thoughts, the Synod Questionnaire, "Sharing Wisdom," is still available **here**. The more voices we can hear and thoughts we can share, the more truly representative this Synod will be. We're waiting to hear from YOU.



C.A.R.E. CORNER

In the fourth century, the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ, was wreaking havoc on the Church. Both Church leaders and government leaders were jumping on board and ignoring the basic tenets of the faith as they had been laid out in the Nicene Creed. But many did stand firm in the Church's orthodox beliefs that Jesus was both human and divine. Among those champions of the faith in the fourth century were three saints known collectively as the Cappadocian Fathers. St. Basil the Great (379) used his excellent classical education and his reputation for holiness and wisdom to teach, preach and work for Church unity in the midst of heresy, rivalry and envy among Church and state leaders.



Basil's brother, St. Gregory of Nyssa (395) was a great theologian, who played a key role in the ecumenical Council of Constantinople in 381, which gave us our definitive teaching regarding the Holy Spirit. He also left us biblical commentaries, apologetics and pastoral letters. Basil and Gregory's friend, St. Gregory of Nazianzus (390), a lively preacher and world-class orator, is credited with returning the Church in Constantinople to doctrinal solid ground. Who knows what Christianity would believe and practice today if not for these early defenders of the faith that was passed down from Jesus through the apostles.

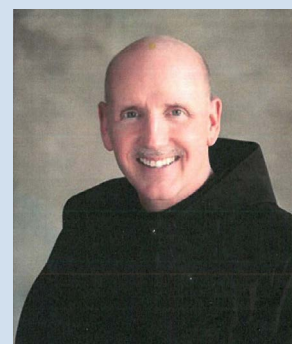
Parish Mission March 27-29 with Fr. Ed Shea

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.



The Mass — The Church Called and Sent

The Mass is at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic. We are shaped by its prayer and sent out to live its imperatives. Why is the Mass the way it is? What does it all mean? For a who, what, where and why, come to the church from 7:00–9:00 pm Wednesday, March 30 to explore, interact with and learn to pray the Mass more mindfully.

To participate, please contact Char Rosales in the Adult Faith Formation Office at 630.355.8980, x138 or crosales@stapostle.org.

Adult Confirmation Offered

Baptized Catholics over the age of 18 who have not been confirmed are invited to preparation sessions for the Sacrament of Confirmation, which will be conferred by the bishop in late May or early June.

Preparation sessions will take place Sundays from 12:30–2:00 pm and will begin around Easter. To participate, please contact Chari Rosales in the Adult Faith Formation Office at 630.355.8980, x138 or crosales@stapostle.org with any questions or to register.

St. Joe to Go Drive Thru Dinner

St. Thomas the Apostle's St. Joseph Table Committee presents ... St. Joe to Go Drive Thru Dinner is Saturday, March 19, 2022. Pick-up time is 5:30-7:00 pm. Suggested donation is \$10 a 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, manicotti, eggplant, salad, bread and cookies for dessert.

Sign up on the St. Thomas website at stapostle.org.

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. Click [here](#) to place your order.

Prayer for World Peace

By Sister Joan Chittister

*Great God, who has told us
"Vengeance is mine,"
save us from ourselves,
save us from the vengeance in our hearts
and the acid in our souls.*

*Save us from our desire to hurt as we have been hurt,
to punish as we have been punished,
to terrorize as we have been terrorized.*

*Give us the strength it takes
to listen rather than to judge,
to trust rather than to fear,
to try again and again
to make peace even when peace eludes us.*

*We ask, O God, for the grace
to be our best selves.*

*We ask for the vision
to be builders of the human community
rather than its destroyers.*

*We ask for the humility as a people
to understand the fears and hopes of other peoples.*

*We ask for the love it takes
to bequeath to the children of the world to come
more than the failures of our own making.*

*We ask for the heart it takes
to care for all the peoples
of Afghanistan and Iraq, of Palestine and Israel
as well as for ourselves.*

*Give us the depth of soul, O God,
to constrain our might,
to resist the temptations of power
to refuse to attack the attackable,
to understand
that vengeance begets violence,
and to bring peace — not war — wherever we go.*

*For You, O God, have been merciful to us.
For You, O God, have been patient with us.
For You, O God, have been gracious to us.*

*And so may we be merciful
and patient
and gracious
and trusting
with these others whom you also love.*

*This we ask through Jesus,
the one without vengeance in his heart.
This we ask forever and ever. Amen*

Faith and Formation Commission — Youth

Important Dates

ELEMENTARY RE

March 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 14, 21

Monday middle school RE classes meet.

March 12.19

Saturday middle school RE classes meet.



Teens with Character ... This Sunday

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 ...

How can I be more attentive to God's word?



St. Thomas the Apostle

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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 or 630.305.6318 or Lorraine Katz at 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.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's liturgy of the Word pamphlets with crayons are available on a credenza in the Narthex as you walk into the church for Mass. Note, the different pamphlets for different age groups. They are geared for PreK through third grade.

Children's Liturgy
of the **Word**

Family Activities During Lent

All Elementary Religious Education families, please check your child's Religious Education folder for many different activities to do with your family during Lent.

- Family Daily Lenten Calendar
- Mass incentive sheet to fill in and return to the RE office or Lorraine Katz for a prize.
- Grade level activity fulfilling your child's Lenten promise.

Make your Lent special as a family and enjoy some family together time.

Family Stations of the Cross

Families are also invited to walk the Stations of the Cross inside the church or outside at St. Thomas. 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 ... register as soon as possible by clicking [here](#).

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.



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 or 630.355.8980, x123.

Big Shout Out for Middle School Mass

A BIG shout out goes to all of those who made it possible for us to gather for the March 6 Mass for middle school families.

- The middle school students who volunteered to serve as lectors, commentators, greeters and gift and cross bearers;
- Fr. Matt Lorenz for presiding at liturgy and for always having a heart for young people;
- Jim Clauer for the wonderful music;
- Casey Braun for the online sign-up;
- The greeters, Eucharistic ministers and the sacristan who made being able to gather and celebrate possible;
- The middle school catechists for sharing their faith and the example of their life;
- Middle school families for making religious education a priority;
- All of those who prayerfully support middle school faith formation by praying with us and for us.

a big
shout
OUT!

Thanks for helping us to pray and praise!



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.

HS Youth Ministry Calendar at a Glance

Friday, March 18
Online Journey Retreat

Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice



Hesed House PADS April Food Donation Sign-Up

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

We are asking parishioners to donate the food items needed each month. Thanks to all those that helped with March donations. We are now asking for donations for April 7, 2022, the first Thursday in April.

How to Donate Food for Hesed House

If you are willing and able to provide food for April, you can sign up for specific items [here](#). If you enjoy cooking, you can sign up to prepare the entrée or the dessert. Recipes and pans are provided. If cooking is not your greatest gift, there are many other items needed.

Please deliver all items to the St. Thomas Gathering Area on Thursday, April 7, before 4:00 pm. Thanks to all who are able to help.

2022 Lenten Project

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

Food with Love

To provide the basic need of food (with love) for one year for the 25 children of Ertha's Orphanage near Duchity, Haiti. The goal is \$13,200.

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 by clicking [here](#).

Michaela and Wadson

Last weekend, Mike Ryder from the Outreach and Social Justice Office spoke at all the Masses. Below is an excerpt from his talk.

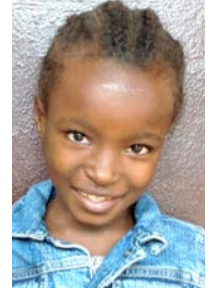
The August earthquake damaged the main building beyond repair. It is not habitable. A second smaller building that has never been completed incurred some damage, but will be habitable once repairs and additions are finished. Immediately after the earthquake, the children were sleeping in two large tents. A temporary shelter construction was subsequently completed. The 25 children now live and sleep in very crowded conditions.

I have traveled to Duchity more than ten times with various twinning mission teams. A visit to the orphanage ... about a 45 minute walk down the main road from Duchity ... is always the highlight. The children are the real story of the orphanage.

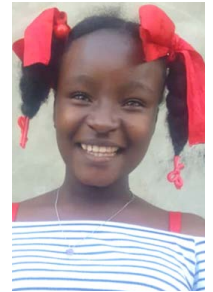
I particularly remember Michaela. She was 4 or 5 when I first met her ... very cute in the ribboned pigtails that the older girls had fashioned for her, but also very shy. I talked with her for quite some time before I could coax a smile from her. She is now 15 years old and in the eighth grade.

And then there was Wadson ... at 4 years old he was always in the middle of everything ... getting run over by the older boys at soccer, but bouncing right back up. The next time I saw him a couple years later, he posed for pictures with thumbs up and very large pair of sunglasses. Don't know where he got those. That boy has "attitude." Wadson is now 13 and in the sixth grade.

I wish you all a holy Lenten season as we renew our role in the covenant that God made with us. And please pray for Michaela, Wadson and the other children of Ertha's Orphanage.



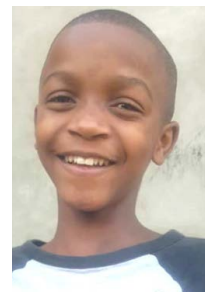
Michaela 2016



Michaela 2022



Wadson 2016



Wadson 2022

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. The local contact for the event is Jeff Galush at 815.341.4808 or 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.



Social Justice Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 27, 7:00 pm

Through the Stations of the Cross, we spiritually follow in the footsteps of Jesus. He suffered for the sins of the world. Today, Christ's suffering continues through the cries of the thousands of men, women, and children who are abandoned and abused, ill, and without homes. God enacts the ultimate preferential option with the poor through this experience of the cross.

Throughout history, women and men have followed the path of Jesus. Many died young; some after years of being witnesses of God's love. The "Way of the Cross: Toward Justice and Peace" follows the final journey of Jesus and highlights 14 of those who walked in his footprints. These saintly people, from many walks of life, reveal to us that the power of faith can overcome death and lead us to resurrection. Below are two of those remarkable people.

To individually meditate on the "Way of the Cross: Toward Justice and Peace," click [here](#).

Thomas More

Thomas More, Lord Chancellor of England under King Henry VIII, was one of the outstanding lay people of his time. In 1534 he was imprisoned in the Tower of London because he refused to give absolute allegiance to the king, giving his absolute allegiance to Christ instead. Thomas was tried, convicted of treason and beheaded after fifteen months in prison. His letters from prison reflect his view that a believing Christian must be an active Christian.

"O Lord, give us the grace to read or hear the Gospel of your bitter passion not with our eyes or our ears in the manner of a past time, but that it may so sink into our hearts that it stretches to the everlasting profit of our souls ... Though faith is the first gate into heaven, the person who stands at the gate and does not step forward in the way of good works will not enter into where the reward is."

Joan of Arc

Joan of Arc, the patroness of France, was an illiterate peasant teenager who led French troops against English forces in 1430. She was taken prisoner and held in jail for about a year. Joan was tried as a heretic, sentenced to death, excommunicated, and at the age of nineteen, she was burned at the stake. At her trial she defended her faith.

"All my words and deeds are in the hands of God. With regard to them I bow to Him. And I swear to you that I do not want to do anything contrary to the Christian faith, and if I have done or said anything ... I do not want to defend it, but will repudiate it. If I am condemned — and I see the fire, the wood made ready, and the scaffold — and when I am in the fire, I shall not say differently from what I have already said."

The graphic features a purple and blue background with a thorny branch. The text "St. Thomas" is written in a white, cursive font at the top. Below it, "THE SEASON OF LENT 2022" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The main title "Lenten Prayer" is in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text "Loving God-" is in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The following are several prayer requests in a white, italicized, sans-serif font, each on a new line. At the bottom, "Amen." is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The entire graphic is enclosed in a blue border.

St. Thomas

THE SEASON OF LENT 2022

Lenten Prayer

Loving God-

This Lent, give me a new sense of vision to notice Your ways I have overlooked.

Renew me with a special sense of Your presence.

Challenge me to look closely at the quality of the faith You have given me and marvel.

Remove my fears so I can respond to Your call in service to others.

Allow me to hear the music of Your faithfulness.

Grant me the strength to speak Your truth with loving conviction in this broken world.

Empower me to follow Your example of servanthood.

Open my mind, my heart, and my hands to Your will.

Afford me the opportunity to recognize Your face in those in need.

Heal the wounds of division and provide resources for reconciliation.

Assist me in heeding your call to come to the quiet and be at rest in You.

Send me the counsel of the wise to illumine my way.

As I journey with You, may I realize as St. Augustine did that I will be restless until my heart rests in You.

Amen.

excerpts from various Lenten resources

Service Commission — Pastoral Care

Blended Mental Health First Aid

CPR for the Brain

You are more likely to encounter someone — friend, family member, or neighbor — in an emotional crisis than someone having a heart attack. Just as CPR teaches you how to respond to someone in a medical crisis, Mental Health First Aid prepares participants to assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis. You will learn situational skills to intervene and help someone experiencing a mental health problem.

You will learn

- Signs and symptoms of mental illness
- Risk and safety assessment
- Intervention strategies

Registration

Continuing education units are available for LCPC/LPC, LCSW/LSW, LMFT and Psychologist.

How Blended Mental Health First Aid works:

After completing a 2-hour, self-paced online class, First Aiders will participate in a 6 hour in person instructor-led class.

When: Saturday, April 30, 2022
9:00 am–4:00 pm

Where: St. Thomas the Apostle

Cost: \$23.95

Instructors: Tina Lueckhoff and Diane McQueen

To sign up:

<https://043022bmhfa.eventbrite.com>

Registration Closes April 20 at 11:30 pm

From the Behavioral Health Ministry Name-Calling

Everyone has heard the saying: “Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” The problem is, this statement is not the least bit true. Name-calling is one of the most damaging and painful types of bullying. It leaves victims with negative messages about who they are. It’s also harmful because name-calling attempts to falsely define people.

For instance, calling someone “fat,” “retard,” “nerd,” or any other derogatory name chips away at the target’s self esteem, sense of self-worth and self-concept. To make matters worse, name-calling happens a lot and can encourage that behavior in your child.

Name-calling, which is sometimes dismissed as teasing or ribbing, is often present in sibling bullying. However, this type of talk is very hurtful and can harm a child’s sense of self.

In fact, 75 percent of elementary school students say they are called names on a regular basis at school. They also consistently witness students call others words like “stupid” or “spaz” and nearly 50 percent hear things like “you’re so gay” or “that’s so gay.” Swear words and derogatory euphemisms for body parts are also used.

Name-calling hurts in the moment and can have many lasting repercussions. The consequences of name-calling include the following:

- Erodes sense of self
- May compromise beliefs and values
- Damages sense of well-being
- Affects identity
- May lead to violence
- Prompts internal criticism
- Harms mental health
- Compromises physical health

If you or your child are having suicidal thoughts, contact the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1.800.273.8255 for support and assistance from a trained counselor. If you or a loved one are in immediate danger, call 911.

Source: Sherri Gordon. Verywellfamily.com



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
St. Thomas the Apostle

Blood Drive Update

Thank you to all the donors who came to the March 5 blood drive at St. Thomas. We saved 90 lives! Good job St. Thomas! Let’s save even more lives at our next blood drive July 16, 2022.

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.





Returning Home

To my fellow souljourners on this faith journey, my name is Kathy Ford. You might recognize that name and indeed you would be right! I brought Parish Nursing to St. Thomas in 1993. I met my future husband here, Marty Ford, the Youth Minister at the time, and it was and is an epic love story. We married at St. Thomas and had 2 beautiful daughters, Sarah and Katie Rose, baptized here.

After 6 years in ministry, in 2000, the movement of the *Spirit* carried me on to new possibilities! I continued parish nursing and became the Director of Pastoral Care at a brand new parish on the south end of Naperville, Holy Spirit Catholic Community.

I remained at that parish for another 20 years, growing personally in my faith life and as a servant leader. I certainly didn't realize that the movement of the *Spirit* would carry me back to St. Thomas where I am now the **Director of Pastoral Care/Nursing**.

I come home to you as a Companion on The Journey. The word "Companion", comes from the Latin roots, com-(with) and panis-(bread), meaning literally, "someone you break bread with." That is precisely what we do here, break bread with each other as companions on a physical, emotional, and spiritual journey of healing and wholeness!

My focus as I "break bread with you," will be to establish relationships, listen with an open heart, and support this faith community through ministry and service within the scope of Pastoral Care.

I ask that you pray for me as I step back through the door here at St. Thomas. I am encouraged and excited to see where this journey leads. May the God of Light and Healing lay His hand gently upon our feet, keeping us upright and faithful on the journey!

Remember: *We are not human beings going through a temporary spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings going through a temporary human experience.*

HOW GOOD IS YOUR MASK?

The Environmental Protection Agency and others have published research on masks and the percentage of COVID-size airborne particles they filter out. Two things matter most: the type of material and how well it fits your face. Surprisingly, medical procedure masks aren't especially protective unless they're modified to fit snugly across your face by twisting the loops around your ears or affixing them with clips or other devices. Here are the findings:

80 to 95%



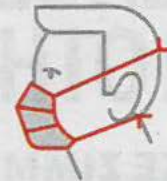
N95 and KN95 masks

74%



Woven nylon mask with aluminum nose bridge and filter

72%



Surgical mask with ties

60%



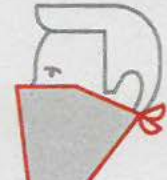
Medical procedure mask, loops twisted around ears, corners tucked

56%



Woven nylon mask with aluminum nose bridge, no filter

49%



Cotton bandanna, bandit style

45%



Woven nylon mask, no bridge

39%



Medical procedure mask with ear loops

38%



Single-layer polyester gaiter

Source: AARP February bulletin

Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, March 14

- 5:00–6:30 pm RE All Saints Families, Gym
- 6:15–8:30 pm Knights of Columbus, Lighthouse
- 7:00–9:00 pm Finance Meeting, Cana
- 7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE at All Saints Academy

Tuesday, March 15

- 10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry Food Distribution, Outside
- 10:00 am–12:00 pm PrimeTime, Lighthouse
- 12:00–12:30 pm Lent Meditation, Chapel
- 7:00–9:00 pm PPC, Cana
- 7:00–8:30 pm Voices of Faith, Church

Wednesday, March 16

- 9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center
- 4:30–5:30 pm Living Stations Practice, Church
- 7:00–8:00 pm Healing Prayer Service, Church
- 7:30–9:30 pm Sojourners Rehearsal, Lighthouse

Thursday, March 17

- 9:15–11:15 am Thursday AM Bible Study, Senior Center
- 10:00 am–12:00 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry, Emmaus
- 6:30–8:00 pm Life Meeting, Gym
- 7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

Friday, March 18

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

Saturday, March 19

- 8:30–11:45 am RE at All Saints Academy
- 8:30–9:45 am Middle School RE at All Saints Academy
- 9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Cana
- 1:00–3:00 pm RE First Reconciliation, Church
- 3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Chapel

Sunday, March 20

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

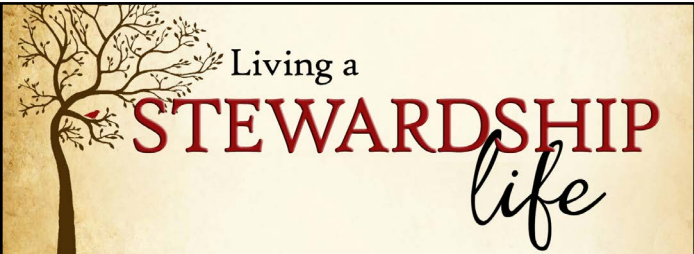
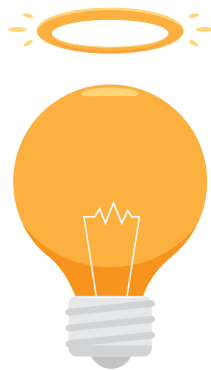
February 27, 2022	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$9,869
Credit Card Online Giving (reported monthly)	none this week
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)	none this week
Mailed in and stock donations	\$9,766
Total for the week	\$19,635
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$1,187,004
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$33,914
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$1,174,932
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$12,072
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	68%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$558,596

This week, the Sunday collection is \$12,072 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$878 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

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!*



Be generous when you worship the Lord, and do not stint the first fruits of your hands. With every gift show a cheerful face, and dedicate your tithe with gladness. Give to the Most High as he has given to you, and as generously as you can afford. For the Lord is the one who repays and he will repay you sevenfold.

Sirach 35: 10-13

We have been given so much in so many ways. Just watch the news lately and you can see how fortunate we are. There are so many ways that you can give "as generously as you can afford," whether to Catholic Relief Services to help those in Ukraine or to our Lenten almsgiving project to help Ertha's Orphanage in Haiti. Have you pledged your gift to the Catholic Misitries Annual Appeal? That is using your gift of treasure wisely.



Whatever you chose, know that the Lord is only asking that you donate what you can afford and that you do so with gladness.

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