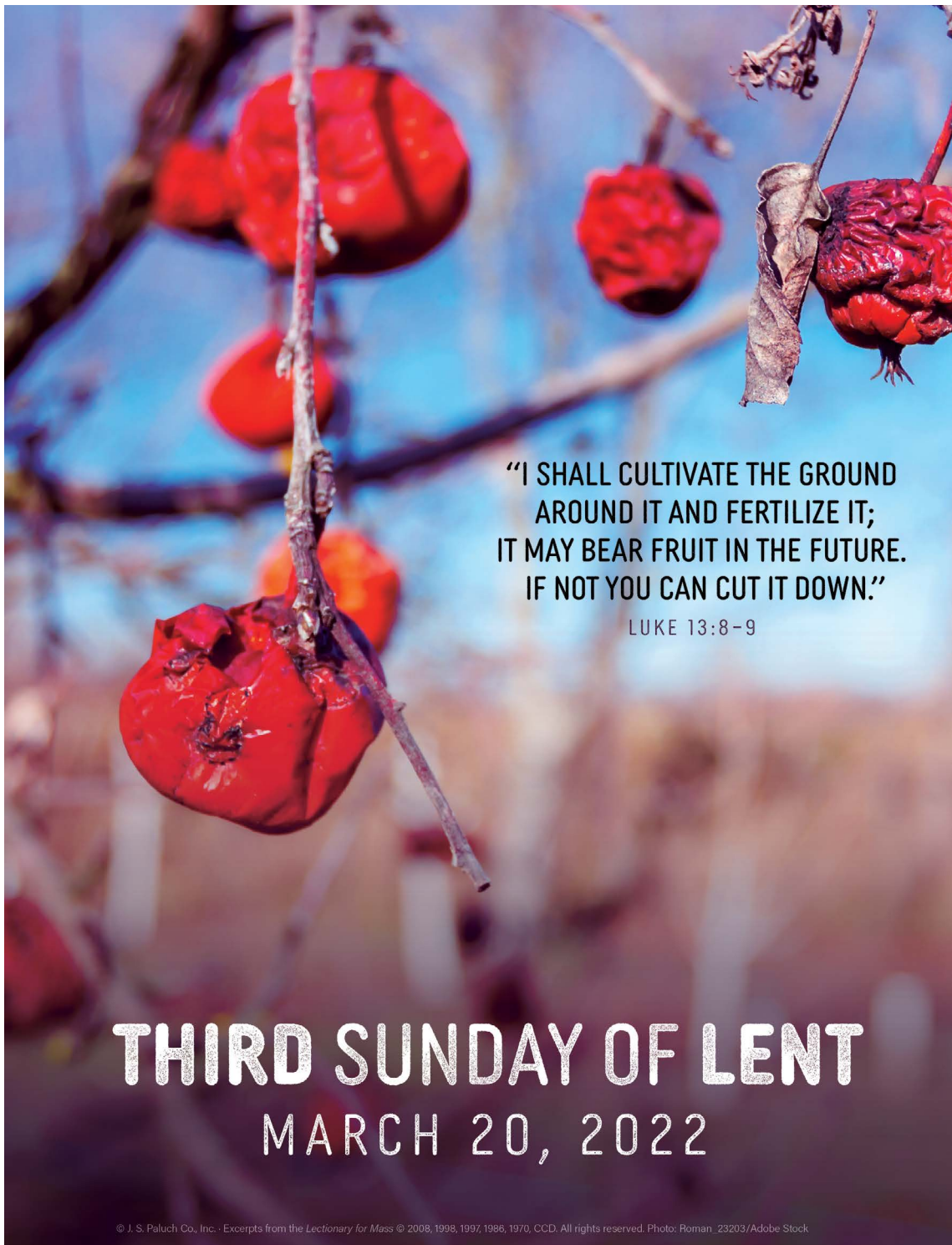


# St. Thomas

MARCH 20, 2022 — SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT



“I SHALL CULTIVATE THE GROUND  
AROUND IT AND FERTILIZE IT;  
IT MAY BEAR FRUIT IN THE FUTURE.  
IF NOT YOU CAN CUT IT DOWN.”

LUKE 13:8-9

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

MARCH 20, 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

Kathy Ford, *Director of Pastoral Care*, x124, kford@stapostle.org  
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

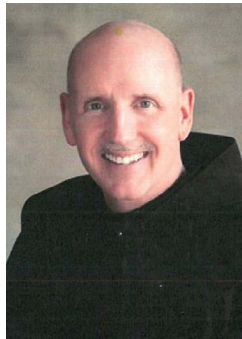


with  
fr danaher

Dear Parish Family,

Next week, we welcome Father Ed Shea of the Franciscan community for our Lenten parish mission that will take place Sunday, March 27, through Tuesday, March 29. Father Shea will also speak at all of next weekend's Masses. Below is Father Shea's biography.

Franciscan Father Ed Shea is the third of eight children from St. Giles Parish in Oak Park. A 1974 graduate of Fenwick High School and a 1978 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Father Shea joined the Franciscans in 1980 and was ordained a priest in 1987. Father Ed has spent most of his priesthood in parish work, including four years as the priest-president for the St. Giles Family Mass Community in Oak Park, Ill., and five years as the pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Joliet, Ill. He was also pastor of St. Joseph Parish, a predominantly Hispanic community in Chicago's famous Back of the Yards neighborhood.



Father Ed has served on his Provincial Council and as Director of Vocations and Formation for the Franciscans of the Sacred Heart Province. During the past several years he has done a good deal of itinerant preaching, in the Chicago area and beyond; he has spent some time living and working in Teutopolis, Ill., and he even went on a couple of pilgrimages to Tanzania, Africa!

At present Father Ed is stationed at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and Student Center in Ruston, La., on the campus of Louisiana Tech University. A Franciscan priest who loves to sing and tell stories, more than anything he thrives on celebrating the sacraments of the Church. A true follower of St. Francis, Father Ed finds reasons to rejoice often in the goodness of God's presence in our world.

In the Word,

*Fr. Danaher*

## Liturgy Schedule

### Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday–Saturday

### Wednesdays

Communion Service: 6:30 am

### Weekend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:15 am

*The Saturday 4:30 pm Mass will be livestreamed with an outdoor communion option.*

## Reconciliation

St. Thomas offers the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the Saturday 4:30 pm Mass. Reconciliation will be from 3:30–4:15 pm in the Reconciliation Room. Please check the website for details.

## Presider Schedule March 26–27

### Saturday, March 26

4:30 pm: Fr. Ed Shea with Deacon Joe Cuzzone

### Sunday, March 27

8:00 am: Fr. Philip Danaher

9:30 am: Fr. Ed Shea with Deacon Jim Breen

11:15 am: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

*Presider schedule is subject to change.*

## Welcome Guests and Visitors!

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

## New Parishioners

Marty and Kathy Ford

Lawrence and Janet Simpson

Raphael Tapnio and Erin Sandoval

## Would you like to become a parishioner?

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

## Calling All Men!

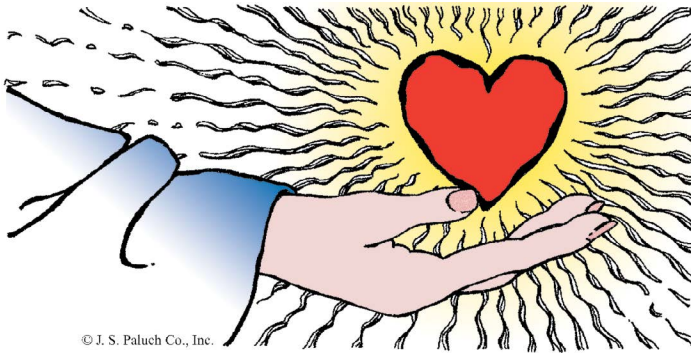
Would you be interested in learning more about membership in our St. Thomas Knights of Columbus council? For an introduction, contact David Yelaska at [cseaaskme@gmail.com](mailto:cseaaskme@gmail.com).

## Church Office and Building Hours

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

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

# Worship Commission — Liturgy and Music



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## Third Sunday of Lent

March 20, 2022

*Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness.*  
— Psalm 103:8

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — The LORD God appears to Moses and directs him to go and deliver the Israelites from Egypt (Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15) or Exodus 17:3-7.

**Psalm** — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103) or Psalm 95.

**Second Reading** — We are not to grumble like the people with Moses in the desert (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12) or Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.

**Gospel** — If you do not repent, you will all perish (Luke 13:1-9) or John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42].

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

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

**Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

**Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23

**Friday:** Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

**Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

**Sunday:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21;  
Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Alternate readings (Year A):

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6;

Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

## Reflecting on the Readings ...

As we enter the midpoint of Lent, our readings become more uncompromising and candid about how we are to live our lives. Through our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we must continue to cultivate good habits that will last long after Lent has ended. How is your Lenten journey going?

## Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

### Monday, March 21, 2022

*Lenten Weekday*

8:30 am †John McSherry, by Richard and Adela Auskalnis

### Tuesday, March 22, 2021

*Lenten Weekday*

8:30 am †James Maul, by The Maul Family

### Wednesday, March 23, 2021

*Lenten Weekday*

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

### Thursday, March 24, 2021

*Lenten Weekday*

8:30 am †Ethel Lawler, by Matthew Carlyle

### Friday, March 25, 2021

*The Annunciation of our Lord*

8:30 am †Nicole Sheputis, by Mary Wright

### Saturday, March 26, 2022

*Lenten Weekday*

8:30 am The Ukraine People

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Beverly Pilch, by Janet Simmons

### Sunday, March 27, 2022

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

8:00 am †Jim Wolff, by Mary Ann Wolff

9:30 am †Mary Bickel, by Karen Currier

†Don Roth, by Audrey Easton

11:15 am The People of Ukraine

## Prayer

*Loving God,*

*We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.*

*We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices.*

*We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.*

*May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.*

*Amen.*



# 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.***

## Easter Environment/Flower Fund

*I would like to make a contribution toward Easter flowers.*

**In Honor Of:**

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PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

**By:**

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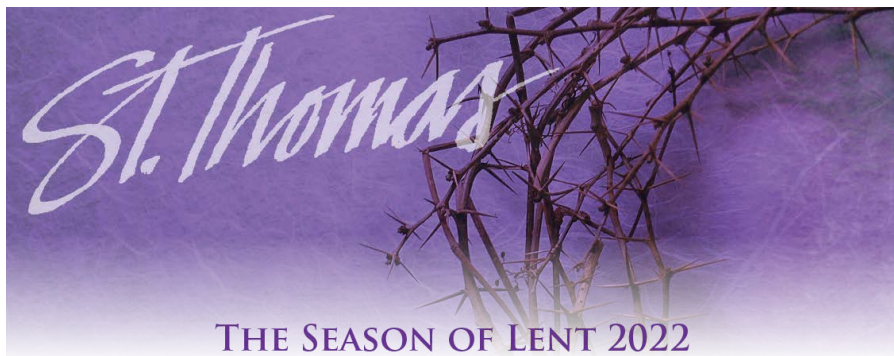
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AMOUNT ENCLOSED

***Please return this form by Tuesday, April 5.***

## Prayer Service for the People of Ukraine

All are invited to take part in a Prayer Service for the People of Ukraine in church at 7:00 pm this Sunday, March 20. In solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Ukraine as well as those who are now seeking refuge elsewhere, we will pray for deliverance and peace. As part of the service, Ukrainian-American and Brookdale resident, Marat Molyboga will speak.



## 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.

### 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 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 St. Thomas Lenten brochure.

## Letter from the Bishop

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Next weekend, March 26/27, our Joliet diocese will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. When you participate in the collection, you support organizations that provide housing for victims of natural disasters, educational opportunities for refugees displaced by war, pastoral ministries to travelers and migrants who lack consistent access to the sacramental life of a parish community. You also support legal services for immigrants navigating the process of becoming naturalized US citizens, along with other pastoral and humanitarian services.



The economic and social benefits of naturalization are significant. Naturalized citizens have better access to education and higher-paying jobs, participate more in their communities, are more likely to be homeowners, and can sponsor family members coming to the United States so that families can be reunited. As a founding partner for the New Americans Campaign in 2011, the Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC) — funded by proceeds from The Catholic Relief Services Collection — has given low- or no-cost naturalization application assistance to lawful permanent residents seeking U.S. citizenship. When we participate in the collection, we become caring neighbors to these new Americans on their paths to citizenship.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection this year, at Mass or through your parish online giving platform. #GiveCatholicTogether also accepts funds for the collection. To learn more about the collection and the people who benefit, please visit [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

Thank you for your generous support of The Catholic Relief Services Collection.

Paz y bien,

**Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks**  
Bishop of Joliet

# 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 on the parish website. Click [here](#) for the survey. 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.

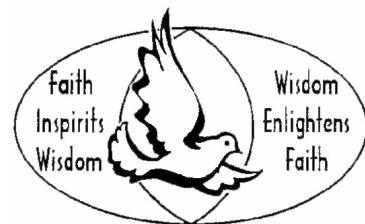


## C.A.R.E. CORNER

Most of us are well-acquainted with St. Augustine, given his enormous influence on Western Christianity. Born in Numidia in North Africa in 354, his father was a pagan and his mother Monica was a Christian, also known in her own right as a great saint for her constant prayers for her son's conversion.

Augustine lived during an interesting time of history. Christianity had been recently legalized, yet Roman paganism still prevailed. The Arian heresy was in full swing and other gnostic groups vied for people's attention and loyalty. While studying in Carthage as a teen, he fell away from his Christian upbringing. He embraced a pagan lifestyle and morals and began to follow other philosophies.

In 383, at the age of 29, he moved to Rome. Later in Milan, he heard the sermons of Ambrose and was drawn back to Christianity. Though baptized by Ambrose on Easter in 387, he still had trouble letting go of his concubine and his wealth. But one day while reading Paul's letter to the Romans, he had a conversion of heart. He studied the early Church Fathers, became a priest and eventually was elected Bishop of Hippo in North Africa. He was a prolific writer, including his own autobiography known as the "Confessions." Augustine gave credit to God's grace and mercy for his conversion and looked to a relationship with the person of Jesus Christ for truth and salvation. Augustine died in 430 in Hippo and was later designated as the Doctor of Grace. He also left us many famous quotes, including this one: "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."



## The Mass — The Church Called and Sent

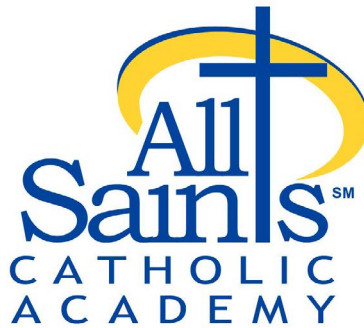
The Mass is at the heart of what it means to be a Catholic. We are shaped by its prayer and sent out to live its imperatives. Why is the Mass the way it is? What does it all mean? For a who, what, where and why, come to the church from 7:00–9:00 pm Wednesday, March 30 to explore, interact with and learn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

To participate, please contact Char Rosales in the Adult Faith Formation Office at 630.355.8980, x138 or [croales@stapostle.org](mailto:croales@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 [croales@stapostle.org](mailto:croales@stapostle.org) with any questions or to register.



## Enrollment Trends in Catholic Schools

For the first time in almost two decades, Catholic schools across the United States saw a 3.8 percent increase in students in this current 2021-2022 school year. An increase of 62,000 students enrolled in Catholic schools when comparing September 2020 to September 2021 numbers, with almost 1.7 million children in 5,900 schools wearing the khaki and plaid. What an exciting change of direction for schools that have experienced closings and consolidation over the years.

### Drivers of this enrollment increase included the following:

- Parents of preschool and kindergarten students who were unhappy with how their previous schools were operating during the pandemic during these formative years.
- An uptick in school choice programs which include vouchers, tax credits and education savings accounts. The Invest in Kids Tax Credit Scholarship Program here in Illinois would be an example of this. Over the past four years, this program administered by the state's largest SGO (Scholarship Granting Organization) Empower Illinois oversaw the creation of 6,197 scholarships, \$48 million and 642 school partners. To learn more and to view the impressive numbers from Empower Illinois' Year Four Report, go to <https://bit.ly/Y4Report>.

At All Saints Catholic Academy, we experienced this enrollment expansion first hand, seeing a 14 percent increase in students from August 2020 to August 2021. The many new students and families that we welcomed were very pleased with the high level of academics that All Saints offers. They were overjoyed to see the quality of work that their student was producing, knowing that there were expectations and accountability in the production of that work. They came looking for a values-based school where faith is important, and where their student would be safe and cared for.

In accepting new students to our school community, All Saints knows that class size matters. It is important to maintain a class size where teachers have an opportunity to know their students and to be able to meet their students' learning needs. All Saints chooses to keep it small, keep it friendly, keep it family.

As we enroll for the 2022–2023 school year, we see this enrollment trend continuing as families explore educational options for their precious children. Some of the saddest words ever spoken by a Catholic school is "We are full and waitlisted." As our capacity fills at All Saints, don't be left on the waitlist.

Visit our website at [ascademy.org](http://ascademy.org) today to obtain registration materials and to schedule a tour, or call 630.961.6125 for more information.



# 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 19**

Saturday elementary RE classes meet

*March 19 is the last class.*

### MIDDLE SCHOOL RE

**March 21**

Monday middle school RE classes meet.

**March 19**

Saturday middle school RE classes meet.



St. Thomas the Apostle

**RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION**

## Prayers for those Receiving First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation Family Services for fourth and fifth graders are at the church on Saturday, March 19 at 1:00 pm. 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.

## Question of the week ...

How is the fig tree and gardener in today's gospel (Lk 9:28-36) an example of God's patience and love for us?



## Big Shout Out to the Teens with Character Core Team

A BIG shout out to the Teens with Character Core Team for planning and leading great Teens with Character meetings this year: Ryan Cotner, Abby Galer, Joanna Romauld and Lanie Steins. Thanks for being generous with your time and sharing your gifts with the St. Thomas faith community.

*a big*  
shout  
**OUT!**

## 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.

Thanks for helping us to pray and praise!

## 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](http://www.groupmissiontrips.com).



## 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 online [here](#). Contact Dorothy Grantham for more information at 630.852.3303, x117 or [ym@stapostle.org](mailto:ym@stapostle.org).

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

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

## Grant Provided to Re:new Project Creating Hope for Refugee Women

One year ago, the St. Thomas Immigration Initiative Ministry “Zoomed” with Kristi Sboncak, Executive Director of the Re:new Project, located in Glen Ellyn. At that time, we were impressed with the good work they do.



**RE:NEW**  
*Creating hope for refugee women*

Re:new invests in the lives of immigrant women and empowers them through holistic renewal of their lives — economically, socially and spiritually. Go to [www.renewproject.org](http://www.renewproject.org) for more information.

### How it Re:new Works:

- **Sewing Class:** Re:new offers free sewing classes to any refugee or immigrant woman, no matter their skill level.
- **ESL:** English as a Second Language classes are offered.
- **Mentoring program:** Designed to help integrate the women into the American workplace.
- **Employment:** Some women are hired by Re:new as an Artisan for up to two years, creating products sold at the storefront and online. Others find jobs outside Re:new, using their new skills.

We recently had another “Zoom” with Kristi. In the last year Re:new has expanded its services by

- Partnering with Peoples Resource Center to provide career coaching for its women.
- Partnering with Outreach Community Services to provide case management when needed.
- Hosting College of DuPage (COD) English classes. Graduates receive a scholarship to COD.

The Outreach and Social Justice Office provided a small grant to Re:new to meet some current needs: 5 lumbar supports, 8 padded folding chairs, leather die cutter, office phone and utility wagon.

### Volunteer Opportunities

Re:new has many volunteer opportunities: ESL tutors, mentoring, storefront associate, sewing instruction, marketing and sales, development and fundraising, photography and many more.

## Ukraine Relief Monetary Donations

There have been some questions on the best way to support Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees. The following information was provided by the Diocesan Office for Human Dignity.



There will not be a second collection at this point. The Ash Wednesday collection was already determined to be for the Church in Eastern Europe. The bishops there have said all funds will go to aid refugees. The current recommendation is to donate to Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Catholic Relief Services — CRS — is the official relief and development organization of the Catholic Church in the US.

Your help is needed in Ukraine where there are already more than 2.9 million people in need of assistance. CRS and their partners are preparing and need immediate support to meet both ongoing needs, as well as those related to families forced to flee their homes. CRS and Caritas partners are on the ground across Ukraine and in bordering countries, working to provide safe shelter, hot meals, hygiene supplies, fuel to keep warm, transport to safe areas, counseling support and more.

When you donate, you provide immediate assistance for your Ukrainian sisters and brothers affected by this crisis.

- To donate online, click [here](#).
- Check can be written to “CRS” with “Ukraine” in the memo and sent to:  
Catholic Relief Services  
PO Box 17090  
Baltimore, MD 21297-0303

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## What to Donate? Money or Things

The following was prepared by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI)

### Donate Responsibly

Every disaster response is unique, carefully tailored to meet ever-changing humanitarian needs. Immediately after a disaster strikes, relief organizations coordinate with the host government, affected communities, and other aid groups to conduct needs assessments in order to save as many lives as possible. During this stage, unsolicited material goods are seldom required as they compete with priority relief items identified by the disaster experts.

The best way to help survivors and support disaster relief efforts is also the most economical, efficient and effective: Provide monetary donations to aid groups working on the ground.

### Benefits of Cash Donations

- Cash is fast and flexible, allowing professional aid groups to purchase exactly what is needed, when it is needed.
- Monetary donations save money by helping aid groups avoid delays and steep transportation and administrative costs associated with material donations.
- Enable aid groups to quickly purchase culturally and nutritionally appropriate provisions close to the disaster site. Food and safe drinking water can almost always be purchased locally, even following a disaster. These goods arrive quickly and are fresh and familiar to survivors.
- Boost local economies by supporting local markets and merchants, providing jobs and generating cash flow. Unsolicited material goods often compete with goods from local markets, negatively impacting people’s livelihoods.
- Allow for maximum flexibility when needs are constantly changing. Cash can be used to provide lifesaving healthcare, shelter, family reunification, counseling and other services that are vital to survivors of disasters.
- Promote efficiency because relief items purchased locally require less energy and generate fewer carbon emissions to transport to areas of need.

Even small monetary contributions can do a great deal of good, helping more people than unsolicited material donations. By focusing on what works best when times are at their worst, you become a force for good!



Marie-Ange Dormus    Valery Messy

## 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 on the St. Thomas website by clicking [here](#).

# 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*

## Mental Health First Aid in Practice

*Please read the account below from Deacon Joe Cuzzone and how taking part in Mental Health First Aid training prepared him for a situation like this.*

#### What is she doing?"

I was working from home, and on my lunch break, planned to run an errand. As I opened the front door to carry a box to my car, I spotted my neighbor across the street waving her arms, trying to get my attention. "What is she doing?" I thought as I set the box down. When I looked up, I noticed a package delivery truck parked in the street in front of the house next door. I could hear the driver screaming to someone on what I figured was his Bluetooth phone. "If she's home when I get home, I'll kill her!" He was inside the truck, vigorously moving around and I could hear him tossing boxes around. I kept wondering who he was talking to? The yelling continued. "I can't take it anymore! I know I'm gonna do something!" My mind raced. What do I do? Who do I call?

#### Who do I call?

The yelling continued. "I can't take it anymore! I know I'm gonna do something!" My mind raced. What do I do? Who do I call?

I decided to call the police. From my MHFA training, I knew they were equipped and had been trained to handle these kinds of crisis situations. I knew it was the right thing to do. I called the police non-emergency number and explained to the dispatcher that this delivery person was extremely upset. I didn't want him driving down our street, where kids were out at lunchtime. "Tell me about the truck. Anything unique about it?" she prompted. I hadn't noticed anything other than the company name on the side. At that very second, I heard the truck pull away. "Okay, I'll let you know what we find out," she said.

#### She didn't know what to do. He said he didn't know what to do either.

I told them what I did and how I knew this person needed help. A short time later, a police car pulled up to our house, followed minutes later by a second car. The officers said they located the truck and were very appreciative that I called. It turned out that the man willingly went with officers to the hospital for evaluation. One of the officers said, "You don't know what you've done for this guy. We stopped him, asked him a few questions. He knew himself that something was wrong and needed help — but didn't know what to do."

#### "Mental Health First Aid"

A year and a half earlier, I had participated in the "Mental Health First Aid" class offered at my parish. I am firmly convinced that what I learned in that eight-hour session prepared me to know what to do, to do it quickly and to seek help for a person in severe emotional distress. The de-escalation training of officers in our police department helped these officers know how to handle the call. Caring for each other today includes knowing how to help in these situations that can occur without warning, whether we're out running errands or in our own home.

*Deacon Joe Cuzzone*



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
St. Thomas the Apostle

**From the Behavioral Health Ministry**  
**April is National Autism Awareness Month**

Autism Spectrum Disorder, ASD, is a developmental disorder caused by differences in the brain. It is characterized by difficulties with social interaction and communication, and by restricted and repetitive behavior. The main symptoms of autism:



**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**  
St. Thomas the Apostle

- Repetitive behaviors like hand-flapping, rocking, jumping or twirling.
- Constant moving (pacing) and “hyper” behavior.
- Fixations on certain activities or objects.
- Specific routines or rituals (and getting upset when a routine is changed, even slightly)
- Extreme sensitivity to touch, light and sound.

ASD begins before the age of 3 and last throughout a person’s life, although symptoms may improve over time. Some children with ASD show hints of future problems within the first few months of life. In others, symptoms may not show up until 24 months or later.

Scientists do not know yet exactly what causes these differences for most people with ASD. Some people with ASD have a known difference, such as a genetic condition. There are multiple causes of ASD, although most are not yet known.

There is often nothing about how people with ASD look that sets them apart from other people, but they may communicate, interact, behave, and learn in ways that are different from most other people. The learning, thinking, and problem-solving abilities of people with ASD can range from gifted to severely challenged. Some people with ASD need a lot of help in their daily lives; others need less.

**Types of Treatments**

There are many types of treatments available. These include applied behavior analysis, social skills training, occupational therapy, physical therapy, sensory integration therapy and the use of assistive technology.

The types of treatments generally can be broken down into the following categories:

- Behavior and Communication Approaches
- Dietary Approaches
- Medication
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine

*Center for Disease Control, cdc.org*



**FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE**  
St. Thomas the Apostle

**From the Office of the Parish Nurse**  
**Food Safety at Home**

1. Always wash your food, hands counters and cooking tools. Wash hands in warm soapy water for at least 20 seconds. Do this before and after touching food. Wash your cutting boards, dishes, forks, knives and counter tops with hot soapy water. Do this after working with each food item. Rinse fruits and vegetables. Clean the lids on canned goods before opening.
2. Keep raw foods to themselves. Germs can spread from one food to another. Keep raw meat, poultry, seafood and eggs from other foods. Do this in your shopping carts, bags and fridge. Do not reuse marinades used on raw foods unless you bring them to a boil first. Use a special cutting board or plate for raw foods only.
3. Food need to get hot and stay hot. Heat kills germs. Cook to safe temperatures: beef, pork Lamb 145 F; Fish 145 F; Ground beef, pork, lamb, 160 F; Turkey, Chicken, Duck 165 F. Use a food thermometer to make sure that food is done. You can’t always tell by looking.
4. Put food in the fridge right away. 2 hour rule: put foods in the fridge or freezer within 2 hours after cooking or buying from the store. Do this within 1 hour if it is 90 degrees or hotter outside. Never thaw foods by simply taking it out of the fridge. Thaw food: In the fridge, in the microwave, marinate foods in the fridge

*Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration*

# Stewardship and Administration

## The Week Ahead

### Monday, March 21

7:15–8:30 pm Middle School RE at All Saints Academy

### Tuesday, March 22

12:00–12:30 pm Lent Meditation, Chapel  
 4:30–5:45 pm RE at St. Thomas, Ministry Center  
 7:00–9:00 pm INSIGHT, Senior Center  
 7:00–8:30 pm Voices of Faith, Church

### Wednesday, March 23

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

### Thursday, March 24

9:15–11:15 am Thursday AM Bible Study, Senior Center  
 7:30–9:30 pm Genesis Rehearsal, Church  
 7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

### Friday, March 25

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

### Saturday, March 26

9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Cana  
 9:00–11:00 am Ensemble Rehearsal, Lighthouse  
 3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Chapel

### Sunday, March 27

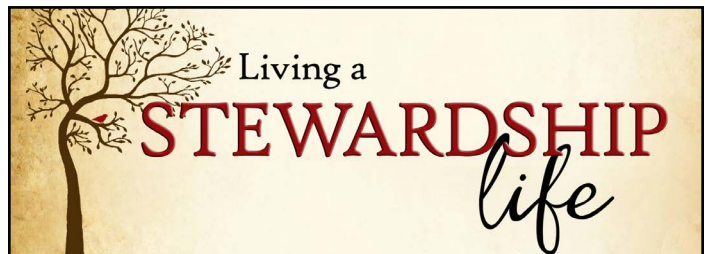
7:00–8:30 pm Parish Mission, Church

## Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

### Weekly Sunday Offertory

March 6, 2022	
Sunday Collection Offering*	\$16,312
Credit Card Online Giving (February)	\$17,657
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	\$20,981
Mailed in and stock donations	\$9,616
Total for the week	\$64,566
<small>*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation</small>	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$1,290,918
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$35,859
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$1,208,501
Over/(short) of goal to date	\$82,417
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,745,600
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	74%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$454,682

This week, the Sunday collection is \$82,417 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$776 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.



A synod is defined as a governing or advisory council. Pope Francis has called a synod and has invited all members of the Church to participate with their thoughts and ideas on where the Church is heading now, where should it be heading and how do we get there together. That is an overwhelming task, especially since he is asking that 1.2 billion members participate. However, God has given us the gift of time. We can take some of that time to answer several questions pertaining to how the Catholic Church should proceed.



Click [here](#) for the survey. Take some time to answer the questions. It will not take more that 10 or 15 minutes, if you wish.

Another opportunity to participate is to attend a Listening Session to be held in the Parish Gym on the evening of April 4 at 7:00 pm. Please consider using your time wisely for this important task.

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