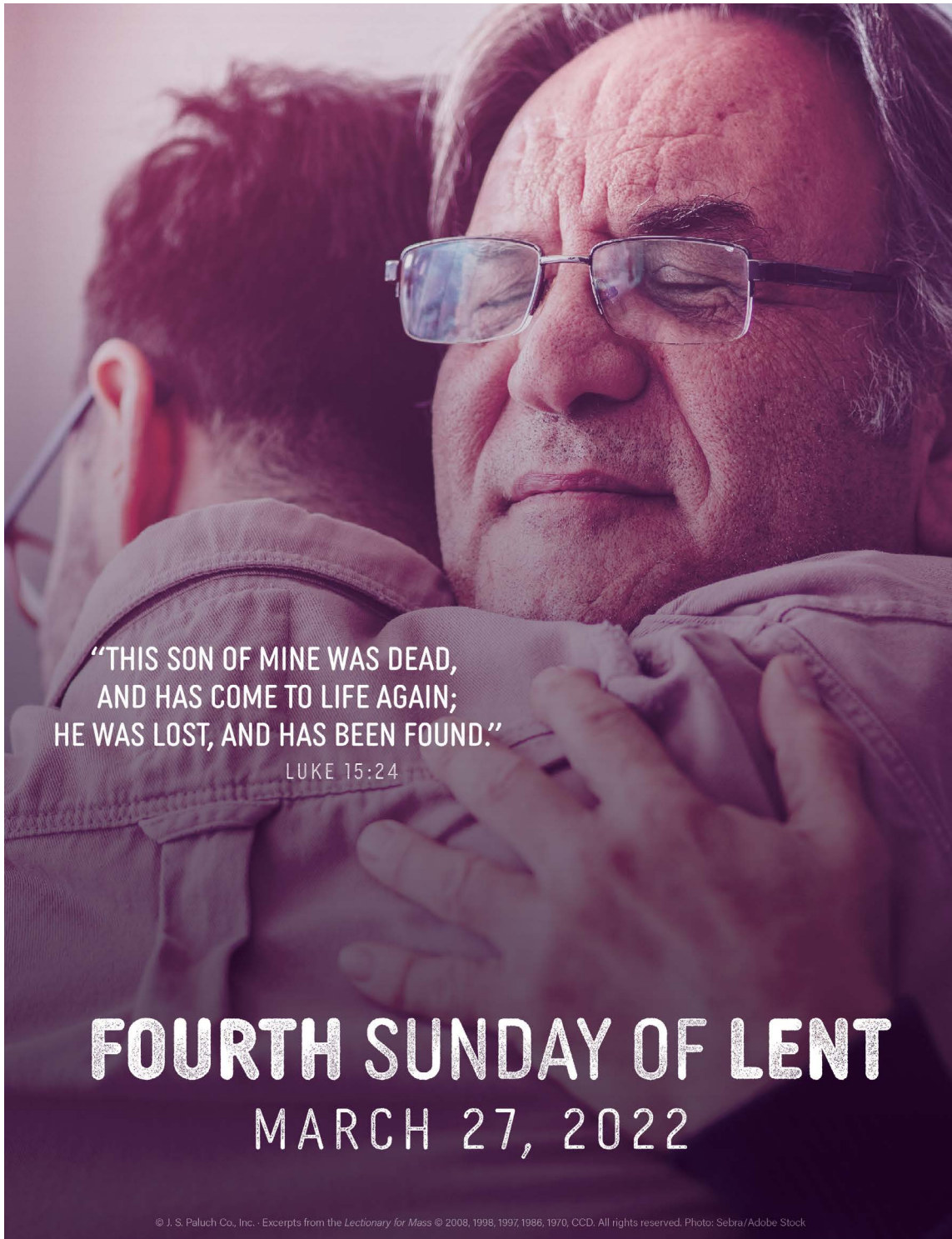


St. Thomas

MARCH 27, 2022 — FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



“THIS SON OF MINE WAS DEAD,
AND HAS COME TO LIFE AGAIN;
HE WAS LOST, AND HAS BEEN FOUND.”

LUKE 15:24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 27, 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
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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

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
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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.*, x107, 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,

Think how we would feel if a family member said that they could not wait for us to die to receive anything we might have willed to them after our death, that they wanted it now. In today's gospel story of the prodigal son, that's what the son said to his father when he asked for the share of his father's estate that would be coming to him after his father's death. The

son only cared about himself and not at all about his father's feelings.

Then after spending all his money in wasteful extravagance, the definition of "prodigal," he decided to return to his father and ask for his forgiveness. You wonder if the son was asking for his father's forgiveness because he had hurt his father or because he was dying from hunger. But no matter what his motives were, his father didn't give him a chance to explain why he returned home.

It's the same with God. He doesn't need an explanation of why we're coming home to Him to ask for His mercy. All He wants from us is to just come home.

In the Word,

Fr. Danaher

Prayer of St. Francis

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, harmony;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, Grant that I may no so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born into eternal life.
- St. Francis of Assisi*

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 April 2–3

Saturday, April 2

4:30 pm: TBD

Sunday, April 3

8:00 am: TBD

9:30 am: TBD

11:15 am: TBD

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

Eleanor Fiascone

Matthew and Jillian Sturm and Family

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.

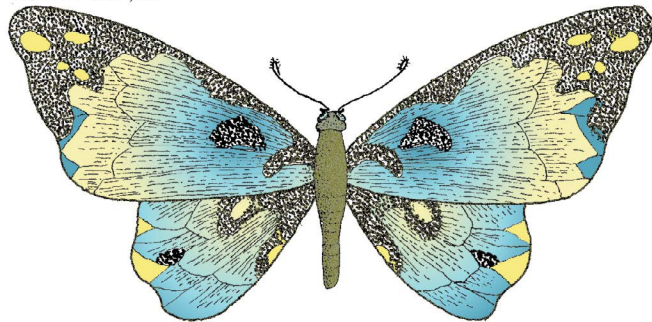
Church Office and Building Hours

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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Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 27, 2022

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

Readings for Today

First Reading — God's people enter the promised land, observe the Passover, and eat of the produce of the land (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12) or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalm — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34) or Psalm 23.

Second Reading — We are now ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel — We must rejoice when our brother who was dead in sin repents and comes back to life (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

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: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11;

Alternate readings (Year A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

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

Monday, March 28, 2022

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am †Lorraine Brown, by Richard and Adela Auskalnis

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am †Connie Clear, Jr., by Mary O'Brien Glatz

Wednesday, March 30, 2022

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am †Jenni Anderson, by Mom, Dad and Kerri

Thursday, March 31, 2022

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am †Anthony Kurian and Eely Anthony, by the 8:30 Mass Group

Friday, April 1, 2022

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am Healing for Pia Natividad, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

Saturday, April 2, 2022

Lenten Weekday

8:30 am Healing for Sr. Connie Parcasio, by Buddy and Mely Mallorca

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Joanna Vesper, by Mark Vesper

Sunday, April 3, 2022

Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 am †Carol O'Brien, by Przekwas Family

9:30 am †Ed Olah, by Bear and Kathy Ferguson

†Jim Johnson, by Audrey Easton

11:15 am †Diane Rockett, by Lenore Levine

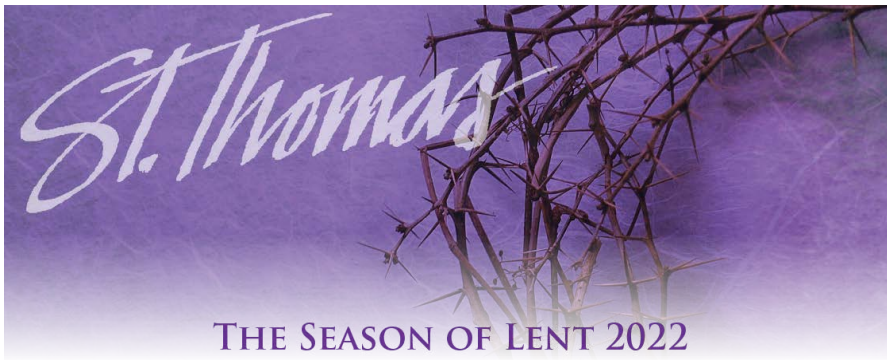
Scrutinies

What are the Scrutinies? The Scrutinies are rites of self-searching and repentance and above all have a spiritual purpose. The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak in the hearts of the elect and to bring out and strengthen all that is good. The scrutinies are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ.

These rites, therefore, should complete the conversion of the elect and deepen their resolve to hold fast to Christ and to carry out their decision to love God above all.

Reflecting on the Readings ...

Today's readings focus on reconciliation, forgiveness and moving forward. Forgiveness is one-sided; one can choose to forgive, but reconciliation requires two people in the act of coming together. God offers us both forgiveness and reconciliation and does not hold our sins against us once we have asked for forgiveness. Are we able to do the same with one another?



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.

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.

Holy Week Taizé

Monday, April 11

7:00 pm | Church

Taizé prayer, a style of prayer used by the ecumenical religious community from Taizé, France, is characterized by a calming, meditative atmosphere, simple sung refrains, scripture readings, ritual action, and vocal and silent prayer. Come center your heart to prepare to celebrate the Holy Week Liturgies.

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 Friends,

With the onset of the coronavirus pandemic more than two years ago, our goal in the Diocese of Joliet has been to ensure the safety and well-being of all clergy, religious, lay ministers, parishioners, employees and volunteers while providing access to worship and the Eucharist. We have adjusted our safety protocols as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations increased and then decreased. I want to personally thank you for your diligence in safeguarding the health of our brothers and sisters in Christ.



When the state of Illinois lifted its mask mandate for indoor public places on February 28, we followed suit for all church and office activities. We also removed practically all other precautions, but left in place the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

The time has come to remove that final provision, and we will do so on Palm Sunday. What better time for us all to come together again than Palm Sunday, which marks the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem and the beginning of Holy Week.

Of course, if individuals are ill or contagious to others, Canon law allows them to decide for themselves if they should attend Mass.

I am excited the Diocese of Joliet will fully reunite as one body in Christ for the liturgies leading up to Easter and beyond.

I am reminded of the words Pope Francis wrote in *Fratelli Tutti* during the initial months of the pandemic: "Let us dream, then, as a single human family, as fellow travelers sharing the same flesh, as children of the same earth which is our common home, each of us bringing the richness of his or her beliefs and convictions, each of us with his or her own voice, brothers and sisters all." (Paragraph 8)

Let us welcome home our family with joy and continue to pray for each other.

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](#) to take 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.

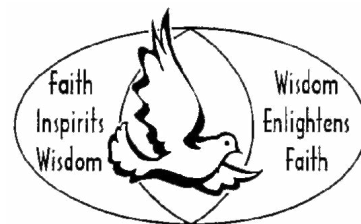


C.A.R.E. CORNER

As Roman authorities stepped up persecutions against Christians, some Christians retreated to the deserts in order to live simple and humble lives focused on the spiritual journey. St. Paul of Thebes is one of our earliest known desert fathers. He landed in a cave in the Egyptian desert around the year 250

AD. Hermits often developed reputations for being holy and wise and potential disciples sought them for their wisdom and their exemplary lifestyle. Hermits doubted that politics could ever produce a truly Christian society, so they retreated from the ruling empires. They entered into the solitude of the deserts to either live alone or in small groups. Monastic communities were intended to be religious and spiritual communities only.

Some of the marks of the monastic life included: isolation and solitude; the practice of very ascetic lifestyles and the renunciation of worldly goods; fasting and the sacrifice of most comforts; frequent prayer and the singing of psalms; self-discipline; and the recitation of Scriptures. St. Anthony of the Desert is one of the best known early hermits. He too spent his time in the Egyptian desert to engage in prayer and fasting in order to be transformed into the likeness of Christ. He died in 356 and was immediately revered as a holy man. He is considered to be the father of monasticism. Although a life of isolation may not be possible or practical for most of us, we can still engage in some of the spiritual practices of our desert fathers and mothers, especially during the season of Lent.



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 Chari Rosales in the Adult Faith Formation Office at 630.355.8980, x138 or 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 with any questions or to register.



Our Lenten Journey at All Saints

The halls and walls of All Saints Catholic Academy are decorated this Lenten season with "footprints" that include illustrations and/or brief sentences representing the Lenten promises of our students and faculty. These footprints also remind us to support one another as we walk together on this journey toward Christ.

Visit our website at ascacademy.org today to find out more about the preschool through grade 8 classes at All Saints, obtain registration materials and schedule a personal tour online at ascacademy.org. You can also call the school at 630.96.6125 for more information.



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 form.

Faith and Formation Commission — Youth



Scripture Safari, Our Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars now for Scripture Safari, our Vacation Bible School. It is June 13–17, 2022. Our theme this year is “Concrete and Cranes Under God’s Construction.” Registration will be available April 1, 2022, in the Gathering Area and the Faith Formation Office. It promises to be an exciting week. Come join the fun!

Wanted

Adult Leaders for Scripture Safari

Scripture Safari will be here June 13–17. Do you have a few hours to share with children in our faith community of St. Thomas? Adults are especially needed for this wonderful ministry. One of the beautiful things during the week is witnessing Jesus’ work in every volunteer and participant.

Want to feel energized with your faith? Come be part of the Scripture Safari team. No experience needed. Find out more by contacting Lorraine Katz at lkatz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x109.

Question of the week ...

How can you find joy when you are struggling or suffering?



St. Thomas the Apostle

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

First Communion Prayer Service

The April First Communion Prayer Service is “It’s About Making Peace.” The April Prayer Service is on Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP online. Sign-ups are closed 24 hours before the prayer service. Please bring your “My Mass Booklet” to the prayer session.

First Communicant Church Visit

First Communicants: Please remember to sign up for your special church visit at St. Thomas, April 9 from 9:15–10:45 am or 11:00 am–12:30 pm. This is required before your First Communion Mass. It is for the First Communicant but parents are welcome.

Online sign ups with password are available in your email.

Pray for a First Communicant

Parishioners are invited to pray for children receiving their First Eucharist this spring. You may pray for a specific child by taking a hand print at the church’s exit doors this weekend (March 26–27).

The handprints are made from colorful construction paper and will have the child’s first name on it. On the back side is a label inviting you to write a card to this youth. Drop off a card with the handprint to the box outside the Faith Formation Office by April 18. Please pray for this child as they receive Jesus for the first time and become a more fully part of our faith community.

Family Stations of the Cross

Families are 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.

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!

Thank You Middle School Catechists and Volunteers

This past week, we concluded another year of middle school religious education. Middle school RE happens because of a dedicated group of catechists and volunteers.

These volunteers include our catechists: Mary Wright, Julie Krupa, Darlene Dionne-Karales, Mary Szczap, Amy Duran, Tanya Galer, Karen Spratt, Sean Elliffe, Giada Colvin, Elizabeth Colvin, Loula Fernandez, Jen Kennedy, John Kennedy and Tim Berglind. Our dependable substitute catechists: Gina Howley, Janet Kirkman, Chris, Baker and Ryan Fee. There are also volunteers who are willing to work behind the scenes to ensure our programs run smoothly. These volunteers include Bernard Salzig, Carolyn Vondran and Nidhi Thomas Mani.

Thanks to all of these ministers for sharing the gifts of their time and talent with St. Thomas middle school students. Their dedication is a gift to the whole St. Thomas community.

Middle School Mission Trip

What: Week of Hope, Kenosha, WI

When: June 19-24, 2022

Includes: Days of service within the Kenosha community and evening prayer, praise and programming

Cost: \$286

To Register: Click [here](#) to register or contact Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x123.

Registration Deadline: April 1

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.



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.

Service Commission — Outreach and Social Justice



PATH April 12 Zoom Meeting Through the Lens of a Recruiter

Are recruiters a part of your job search marketing plans? Have you ever wanted to learn more about recruiters and how they can enable your job search?

On 12 April at 7:00 pm, the PATH Group will be hosting a panel of recruiters from one of the nation's largest staffing organizations. They will be sharing their insights into the current marketplace while answering your questions as to how to best work with recruiters in your job search.

Register in advance for this webinar by clicking [here](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

K of C Top Golf Event

They advertised it as the social event of the year (so far) ... and so it was!

The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus sponsored the "Think Spring" Top Golf event on Sunday, March 13. Not all the 74 participants played the golf shots, but those who did sprayed golf balls in all directions! The Fajita Fiesta buffet was excellent. The cash bar did a good business. All participants enjoyed the event.

Speaking for the Knights, Tim Berglund had the following thoughts:

"Our inaugural Knights of Columbus Top Golf Fundraiser on Sunday, March 13 was a great success. We raised over \$4,300 for St Thomas Cares and the Care Pantry. The Knights would especially like to thank the parish staff for all their help putting this event together. Let's do it again next year!"

The OSJ Office is very grateful to the St. Thomas Knights of Columbus for organizing the Top Golf event to benefit area families in need through the St. Thomas Care Pantry and St. Thomas Cares. They do so much for our community. We are blessed to have them.



Knights Robert and Bob Mambu with Anne Schultz from OSJ Office.



Knight Pat Moran taking a big swing!

A Bit About ...

St. Thomas Care Pantry

- No one asking for food has ever been turned away from St. Thomas!
- Provides food to an average of 65 Households every two weeks.
- In addition, there are some number of "walk-ins" every month.
- Provides turkeys/hams at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.
- Provides school supplies to families each August.
- Donates food, turkeys and hams to St. Nicholas in Aurora and St. Patrick's Church in Joliet at times throughout the year.
- We have a dedicated group of Care Pantry volunteers who do the work.

St. Thomas Cares

- Provides emergency assistance with rent, motel, utilities, auto repairs, car payments, medications, gas cards, food/department store gift cards and other emergency needs.
- Serves clients primarily within parish boundaries and in Warrenville, but sometimes goes beyond depending on the situation.
- Works in partnership with Loaves & Fishes, Naperville Township, SVDP and other agencies.
- Does appropriate due diligence on each client case to verify the situation and need.
- Over the last 12 months, distributed \$44,300 to 195 client cases.

Thank you, St. Thomas

The Care Pantry and St. Thomas Cares could not do what they do without the outstanding support of the St. Thomas community. Thank you! The SPIRIT is with you!

Food Donations for Care Pantry

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

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

- Canned tuna
- Meat meal in a can
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Jello
- Canned fruit
- Cereal
- Jiffy Mix
- Cake mix
- Paper towels/Kleenex

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



Social Justice Stations of the Cross

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.

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.



Marie-Ange Dormus Valery Messy

2022 Lenten Project

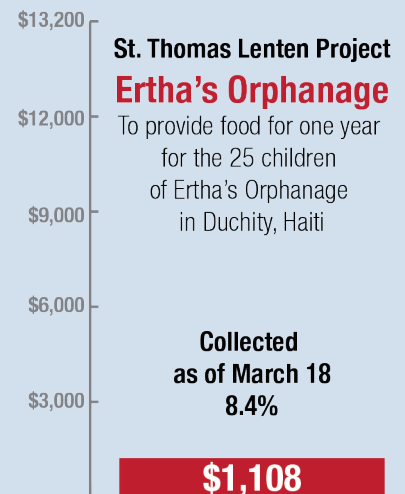
"... whatever you did for one of these least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

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 online by clicking [here](#).



Service Commission — Pastoral Care



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
St. Thomas the Apostle

From the Behavioral Health Ministry Blended Mental Health First Aid Training

CPR for the Brain

Just as CPR teaches you how to respond to someone in a medical crisis, Mental Health First Aid Training prepares participants to assist someone experiencing a mental health crisis.

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:
Click [here](#) to register.

See further registration information in this weekend's bulletin insert as well as the testimony to the value of Mental Health First Aid as experienced by Deacon Joe Cuzzone.

Registration closes April 20 at 11:30 pm



Wellspring Presents Alive Again ... Rising with Christ!

Monday, May 2, 2022
7:00–9:00 pm
Lighthouse

We are living in unprecedented times. Stress levels are at an all-time high as we still cope with the health risks of COVID, financial stress and continued fears at many levels. The paschal mystery teaches us that living, dying and rising are part of our experience as Christians. In this session we will explore how the best practices of psychology intertwined with this mystery will allow us to thrive and maintain wellbeing even in the midst of the most difficult times in this life.

Rev. Dr. Scott Mitchell, PsyD, is the President and CEO of SamaraCare, providers of progressive, life changing counseling and consulting services, serving people in DuPage, Cook, Kane, Kendall, Lake and Will counties.



Rev. Dr. Scott Mitchell, PsyD

As a clinical psychologist and clergy, Dr. Mitchell has 30 years of experience with a special interest in the development of preventive factors that build resilience across the life span and the role of spirituality in resilience. He uses a holistic approach, integrating the best practices of psychology with a respect for mindfulness and spirituality.

RSVP to readmin@stapostle.org by April 29, 2022. Reservations are strongly encouraged; walk-ins are also welcome.



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stapostle.org

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Saturday, April 30th
9:00am— 4:00pm

Instructors:
Tina Lueckhoff and
Diane McQueen

St. Thomas the Apostle
Catholic Church 1500
Brookdale Road
Naperville, IL 60563



CEU Training Objectives:

- The participant will be able to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health distress.
- The participant will be able to safely and effectively support a person experiencing mental health distress.

This is 7.0 contact hour activity is being provided by Edward-Elmhurst Healthcare. Edward-Elmhurst Healthcare (OH-363), 2/1/2017) is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Ohio Nurses Association (OBN-001-91), an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This presentation is being presented without commercial support and without bias or conflict of interest by any of the planners or presenter.

Blended Mental Health First Aid

CPR for the brain

What is Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)?

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, MHFA 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 an in-person, 6 hr instructor-led class.

Cost: \$23.95

To sign up:

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

Registration Closes 4/20 at 11:30pm

Linden Oaks
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Healthy Driven

“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

The Lost Lamb

Sr. Joyce Rupp

So much in me gets lost, God.
I run off in other directions
And lose my vision of you,
Of you and of your Kingdom.
I lose sight of my hopes,
I forget all your promises.
I get lost in problems,
There you are, before me,
Waiting, calling.
There you are, behind me,
Following, pursuing.
There you are beside me,
Caring, loving.
I feel a new surge today,
a re-visioning of hope.
I feel as if you've lifted me up
And are carrying me home,
Safe and secure on your shoulders,
Or maybe next to your heart.
O God of lost sheep, my God,
Appeal again and again
To all the lost-ness in me.
Pursue me relentlessly.
Carry me home. O, carry me home.



FAITH COMMUNITY NURSE
St. Thomas the Apostle

From the Office of the Parish Nurse Blood Pressure Screening Sessions

Blood Pressure Screening Sessions at St. Thomas the Apostle are winding down in our yearly blood pressure season ...only April and May remain.

It is a great opportunity to ask questions, learn your numbers and hear what to do if needed.

Next Sunday, April 3, nurses are available after the 9:30 am and 11:15 am Masses.

Conventional and digital monitoring will be available to you. Stop by the west wing to sign in and greet your nurse.

No appointments or orders needed

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 be a second collection this weekend (March 26–27).

If you miss this weekend's collection, 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. 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, go to 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



Stewardship and Administration

The Week Ahead

Monday, March 28

7:00–8:30 pm Parish Mission, Church

Tuesday, March 29

10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry Food Distribution, Outside

12:00–12:30 pm Lent Meditation, Chapel

7:00–8:30 pm Parish Mission, Church

Wednesday, March 30

4:30–5:30 pm Living Stations Practice, Church

7:00–9:00 pm RCIA, Church

Thursday, March 31

9:15–11:15 am Thursday AM Bible Study, Senior Center

7:30–9:00 pm Thursday PM Bible Study, Senior Center

Friday, April 1

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

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

Saturday, April 2

9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Cana

3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Chapel

Sunday, April 3

10:30 am–1:00 pm Blood Pressure Screening, West Wing

Last weekend's stewardship of financial gifts

Weekly Sunday Offertory

March 13, 2022

Sunday Collection Offering* \$9,468

Credit Card Online Giving (reported monthly) none this week

Automatic Direct Debit (5th and 20th each month) none this week

Mailed in and stock donations \$5,020

Total for the week \$14,488

*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation

Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30) \$1,305,406

Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date \$35,281

Offertory Goal Year to date \$1,242,071

Over/(short) of goal to date \$63,335

Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30 \$1,745,600

Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal 75%

Remaining for this fiscal year goal \$440,194

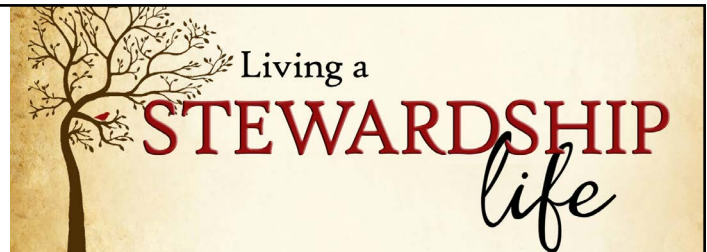
This week, the Sunday collection is \$63,335 ahead of goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$170 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

We are in the middle of Lent and the talk among Catholics focuses on what we are giving up. However let's focus, instead, on what we can do. The focus during Lent should be on prayer, sacrifice and almsgiving, How can we use our gifts and how are gifts being provided for us? For example, we are charged to be prayerful. At St. Thomas we have opportunities to participate in Stations of the Cross on Friday nights during Lent. This week we have the opportunity to attend our Lenten Retreat, led by Fr. Ed. Shea. Come back tonight, then return Monday night and Tuesday night. See the bulletin for the details.

We are also charged to give alms. This year our Lenten collection will be going to Ertha's Orphanage in Haiti. You can pick up a little brown box at the entrances to the church and collect your spare change to be returned at the end of Lent.

And we are charged to sacrifice? That could mean a sacrifice of your time, but not in an isolated fashion. How can you use that time off the computer or sacrifice of TV time to good use to help others?



Please see the bulletin or website for more details for these and other opportunities to use your gifts this Lent.



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