



FEBRUARY

19

2023

SEVENTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

*Love your enemies, and pray  
for those who persecute you ...  
for God makes his sun rise  
on the bad and the good.*

*Matthew 5:44-45A*

**ST. THOMAS THE  
APOSTLE CATHOLIC  
CHURCH MISSION  
STATEMENT**

*Led by the Holy Spirit, rooted  
in the Eucharist, St. Thomas  
the Apostle strives to be an  
inclusive servant community  
– to be Christ in the World.*

*We bear the Good News  
of God's unconditional love  
to all generations through  
worship, faith formation,  
witness and service.*



**ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**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 is livestreamed  
with an outdoor communion option.

1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville, IL 60563 | 630.355.8980 (Main Office) | 630.305.6318 (RE) | 630.355.0521 (Fax)  
mainoffice@stapostle.org | stapostle.org |  St.ThomasTheApostleCatholicChurchNaperville



Fr. Peter shares insights from a variety of voices on the Sunday readings.

### Like a Sponge

To turn the other cheek, to go the extra mile, to love one's enemy, all of that is to absorb and thus stop the evil that can saturate life. When we do that, then evil ends with us, lest it keep escalating like a tsunami that overwhelms life.

Is anyone really willing to absorb the evils of life? Many are. Parents do who walk the floor at night with a crying infant or care for a child sick with a cold and then find themselves suffering the same illness. They absorb the evil in order to bring some comfort and so ease the child's pain. Someone does as well who listens endlessly to a lonely person on the phone or over a cup of coffee. They absorb the loneliness even as it tests their own patience. Those who protest injustice by participating in nonviolent demonstrations and then find themselves mistreated or even dealt with violently, they absorb the hate of others.

"Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy" (Leviticus 19:2), says the Lord to Moses. Absorbing the evils of life is a different sort of holiness, different than saying more prayers or giving up enjoyments during Lent. Part of our tradition is to do penance during the season of Lent. Perhaps this year a penance might be to become conscious of each day's opportunities to simply absorb someone's suffering, another's pain, a bit of the evil that so often ricochets through our days, always doing so in the image of Jesus.

~Fr. Joseph Juknialis

### Reflect

When have you ever suffered as you absorbed someone else's pain?

## Readings for Today

**First Reading** — "Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." (Lv 19:18)

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

**Second Reading** — All belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God. (1 Cor 3:22-23)

**Gospel** — "You have heard that it was said, *You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy*. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." (Mt 5:43-44)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of 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:** Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

**Tuesday:** Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37

**Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25

**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

**Sunday:** Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 (see 3a)/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

## Reflection on the Readings

During some homily or in some class or discussion group, we have all probably been asked the rhetorical question, "If you were on trial for being Christian, would they find enough evidence to convict you?" It's a good question worth asking ourselves every now and then.

## 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

Rodrigo and Emily Alvarez and Family  
Tony and Wendy Trapani

### Would you like to become a parishioner?

Call the Main Office at 630.355.8980.

## Ash Wednesday is February 22

6:30 am — Communion Service

8:30 am — Mass (livestreamed, outdoor communion)

12:00 pm — Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes

4:30 pm — Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes (family-focus)

7:00 pm — Mass

Ashes are also available in a drive-thru format from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Drive over to the Gathering Area doors and roll down your window to receive a blessing and distribution of ashes.

## Presider Schedule February 25-26

### Saturday, February 25

4:30 pm: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

### Sunday, February 26

8:00 am: Fr. Bob Colaresi with Deacon Larry Kearney

9:30 am: Fr. Peter Infanger with Deacon Jim Breen

11:15 am: Fr. Joseph Kappilumakkal

Presider schedule is subject to change.



Jim Clauer, *Director*,  
x111, jclauer@stapostle.org

Samantha Delke, *Associate Director*  
x120, sdelke@stapostle.org

Kay Agustin, *Administrative Assistant*  
x112, litadmin@stapostle.org



## St. Thomas the Apostle Homily Series

### Homily Series

Have you ever wondered how words written thousands of years ago are relevant to your life today? In an effort to delve more deeply into God's Word and apply that wisdom to our lives, we are announcing an initiative called "Homily Series." What this means is periodically we will share a topic, or a series under one theme, that will be presented at all the Masses for the whole parish to focus on as disciples of Christ.

Please mark your calendars for the Homily Series Launch on March 4-5 and bring a friend! The theme for the launch is: Affirming One Another as Beloved – Do you recognize who you are?

#### Upcoming Homily Series

**Spring Homily Series** (2 weeks): April 15-16 and April 22-23  
*Belonging to One Another – The Blessings and Challenges of Community*

**Summer Homily Series** (3 weeks): June 24-25, July 1-2 and July 8-9

*Building Stronger Relationships – Marriage, Family, and Friends*

Scan the QR code to view a short video from Fr. Peter about Homily Series.



### Black History Month

Throughout the month of February, St. Thomas the Apostle celebrates Black History Month.

#### Black History Month Prayer

Good and gracious God,  
who has been our dwelling place throughout time,  
and through whom our hearts are filled with praise,  
grant that, as we celebrate this Black History Month,  
we work to embody the fortitude, grace, and faith  
of African Americans who have shaped  
our Church and world.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

### Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

#### Intentions for this weekend

#### Sunday, February 19, 2023

*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*

†Bernice Wiedenski, by the Szczap Family

†Frank Rossi Sr. by The Dabby Family

8:00 am

9:30 am †Dennis DeMeo, by Liz Constantine

†Joe (Cookie) Rizzo, by Tim Berglind

11:15 am

#### Monday, February 20, 2023

*Weekday*

8:30 am

#### Tuesday, February 14, 2023

*Weekday*

8:30 am

†William Raef, by The Battisto Family

#### Wednesday, February 22, 2023

*Ash Wednesday*

8:30 am

†Jim Maul by the Maul Family

#### Thursday, February 23, 2023

*Thursday after Ash Wednesday*

8:30 am

†Rick DeAngelo by MaryAnn and Dennis Mtynski

#### Friday, February 24, 2023

*Friday after Ash Wednesday*

8:30 am

†Vito Battisto by Battisto Family

#### Saturday, February 25, 2023

*Saturday after Ash Wednesday*

8:30 am

†Michael Waszak by The Mayoralgo Family

4:30 pm

*Mass of Anticipation*

†Ann and Bud Hjorth by Larry and Lisa Hjorth

†Dan Quintana by The Dobby Family

#### Sunday, February 26, 2023

*First Sunday of Lent*

8:00 am

9:30 am

†Bill Feder by Family

†Dennis Demeo by Bob and Kathy

11:15 am

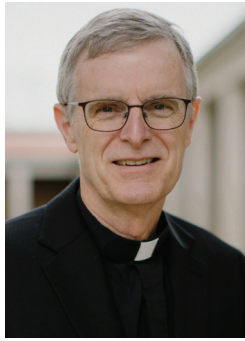
†Thaddeus Witkowski by Joanne Witkowski and Family

### Donut and Welcome Sunday is February 26!

You are invited to be part of Donut Sunday and Welcome Sunday in the St. Thomas gym after all Sunday Masses next weekend. Are you new to St. Thomas? Become a member by registering in the gym. Meet other parishioners and enjoy the warmth of friendship with a donut and coffee.

Dear Parish Family,

**My job, your job, our job is to get us, our families and friends and in fact the world to heaven.**



Lent is a special time to renew our efforts in that task. One help in that task is the Bible readings we will hear at Mass during these 40 days. **The readings are divided into two sections; 1) the moral call of Jesus and 2) the solution of Jesus.**

**Part 1 – Jesus' proclamation of peace and joy to the world through a higher call to holiness.**

A continual life of conversion to follow God more closely with all our heart and mind and soul. Readings on the moral obligations of following Jesus run through week three of Lent. Repeatedly, we will hear the moral commands that we need to follow but many times we fall short, myself included, like: not judging, forgiving others, laying down our will for the other and loving our enemies.

**Part 2 – Jesus Christ is the savior of the world, including us, and our family and friends.**

Jesus is the solution, the answer to our prayers. Starting Monday of week 4, "Jesus Christ is presented as the healer and life giver. Jesus Christ is the son of God of whom John says that all who believe in him will have eternal life." (*Ordo 2023 p 68*)

**Jesus wants us to recognize that we need a savior that we can't do it by ourselves.**

Recognition of our inability to follow Jesus faithfully at all times is what Jesus wants. In this sense failing in our Lenten practices is a good thing! Only in recognizing our shortcomings will we be properly disposed to search for and receive his merciful love! Only then can we truly be a light to the world. (*Ordo 2023 p 68*)

**Enclosed please find all the various Lenten opportunities to bring you closer to Jesus. I call your attention to:**

- **Our Parish Mission.** March 20–22, at 7:00 pm. Finding Holy Ground in ourselves and in our relationships and how to experience God's forgiveness. March 22 concludes with a parish reconciliation service. Presenters: Nancy and Graziano Marcheschi.
- **Reconciliation** is also offered every Saturday from 3:30–4:15 pm except Holy Saturday, April 8.
- **The Living Stations.** April 7, Good Friday at 12:00 pm middle school students will reenact the Stations of the Cross with prayer, reflection and song.

God's blessings upon you,

*Fr Peter +*

Fr. Peter, Pastor

# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH THE SEASON OF LENT 2023



### Food Donations for Care Pantry

Drive-thru donations will be collected Tuesday, March 14 from 9:00–10:00 am and 5:00–6:00 pm.

Food items most needed are:

- meal in a can
- jello
- pasta
- pasta sauce
- large canned soup
- cereal
- toilet paper
- paper towels/Kleenex

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.

### Social Justice Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross “Toward Justice and Peace” will be posted on the St. Thomas website at [stapostle.org](http://stapostle.org). The stations follow the final journey of Jesus while highlighting 14 women and men who walked in his footprints, including St. Kateri Tekakwitha (Native American) and Archbishop Oscar Romero.

### Easter Ham Collection

The Easter ham collection is Palm Sunday weekend, April 1–2. The goal is 500 hams for the Naperville, Aurora and Joliet areas. The truck will be in front of the church. Volunteers will accept hams and monetary donations from 4:00–6:00 pm Saturday, April 1 and 7:30 am–1:00 pm Sunday, April 2.

## Ash Wednesday Family Prayer Service and Family Faith Activity

Wednesday, February 22

4:30 pm | Church/Gym

Begin your Lenten journey at the Ash Wednesday Family Prayer Service. The service includes song, Scripture readings and the distribution of ashes. Immediately following the prayer service, your family is invited to participate in a family faith activity, from 5:15–6:15 pm, in the Gym. You will make a prayer reminder to help you journey through the 40 days of Lent. Dinner is also provided. Pick up a registration form in the Gathering Area or at [stapostle.org](http://stapostle.org). Registration deadline: February 16. Cost: \$5/person or \$15/family (payable at the door).

## Stations of the Cross with Eucharistic Adoration

Fridays of Lent

7:00 pm | Church

The Way of the Cross has 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 always been a treasured way to commemorate the Passion and Death of Christ.

### February 24, March 10, March 24

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.

### March 3, March 17, March 31

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.

## Faith Opportunities During Lent

### Taizé Prayer

Mondays, February 27 and April 3

7:00 pm | Church

Gather in prayer with other members of this faith community to worship in a Taizé style – with scripture, song and silence.

### Mass in Celebration of St. Patrick

Monday, March 6

7:00 pm | Church

As the only celebration of St. Patrick in the Diocese of Joliet, the West Suburban Irish community invites all to celebrate the good deeds of St. Patrick at the Irish Mass. It is a beautiful liturgy in the Irish and English languages, featuring a concert of traditional Irish music beginning at 6:30 pm.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Wednesday, March 22

7:00 pm | Church

This opportunity for God's healing mercy is interwoven with the third night of 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.

### Mid-day Meditation

Tuesdays February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4

12:00–12:30 pm

Spend some time in silent prayer reflecting on the Paschal Mystery and entrusting to Jesus your cares, hopes and fears. His heart is waiting to embrace yours.

## Walking on Holy Ground – Parish Mission 2023

Monday–Wednesday, March 20-22

Led by a lay married couple, Graziano and Nancy Seitz Marcheschi, “Walking on Holy Ground” will look at God’s presence in every situation in our day-to-day lives. Through drama, our hearts and imaginations will be engaged with characters including Mary Magdalene, Zaccheus, Jesus and Lazarus. This unique and unforgettable experience of prayer, music and quiet meditation will explore our Walking on Holy Ground. They will preach at all Masses March 18–19; mission presentations will begin at 7:00 pm each evening Monday through Wednesday.

**Monday, March 20**     **God Loves Us** – *Find Holy Ground in ourselves and in our relationships. Discover we don’t earn God’s love.*

**Tuesday, March 21**     **God Feeds Us** – *Is our hunger for God and his peace life-giving or destructive? How everything comes together in the Eucharist.*

**Wednesday, March 22**     **God Forgives Us** – *Look honestly at sin and learn how to approach the Father without fear or hesitation, as did the Prodigal Son. The Parish Reconciliation Service will follow.*

## Opportunities for Middle School Students and Families

### Middle School Family Mass

Middle school families are invited to celebrate the 4:30 Mass together on Saturday, March 4. Fr. Peter will be the presider and homilist. Help is needed with this special liturgy. Middle school students can volunteer for various ministry roles by going to the volunteer sign-up on the St. Thomas website. Come, pray and celebrate together!

### Teens with Character

Teens with Character encourages middle school youth to be the hands and feet of Christ. Come to Teens with Character Sunday, March 12, to experience fellowship and explore practical ways to live our faith. Teens with Character meetings take place from 4:30-6:00 pm in the St. Thomas gym.

### Living Stations of the Cross

Middle school students are invited to be part of the Living Stations of the Cross prayer service on Good Friday, April 7. The Stations are prayerfully “acted out” with still poses. This is an opportunity to come to a deeper understanding of the gift of Christ’s ultimate sacrifice for us. Practices will be held weekly beginning March 1, from 4:30–5:30 pm, in the Church. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Peggy Goralski at [pgoralski@stapostle.org](mailto:pgoralski@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x123.

### Ash Wednesday and Holy Week Playlists

There are many online resources to help make the season of Lent more meaningful. A “playlist” highlights several of these resources and includes links to articles, videos, music and prayer. There are resources for young and old alike! Be sure to take a look at the Ash Wednesday and Holy Week playlists. The Ash Wednesday playlist, “Signed with Ashes,” will be available beginning February 18. The Holy Week playlist, “Sacred Journey, Sacred Days,” will be available as Holy Week approaches. You can check them out on the St. Thomas website.

### Pause for Prayer

As a way to enter more deeply into the Lenten season, middle school and high school students are invited to come together for some shared prayer time on Friday, March 17 from 6:00–7:30 pm in the Gym. The evening will include faith sharing, prayer experiences and dinner. Join us in pausing for prayer. If you are planning to attend, please register by Wednesday, March 15 by emailing Dorothy at [dgrantham@stapostle.org](mailto:dgrantham@stapostle.org) or Peggy at [pgoralski@stapostle.org](mailto:pgoralski@stapostle.org).

### Soup and Bread Night

On Wednesday March 1 the St. Thomas Lector Ministry will sponsor the 28<sup>th</sup> Soup and Bread Night from 6:30-8:00 pm in the St. Thomas Gym.

Each year, prior to shutting down during COVID19, the ministry sponsored this event during Lent, designed to highlight the concept of getting back to the basics and showing solidarity with those who may have only soup and bread to eat, or even less. We are pleased to renew this special tradition.

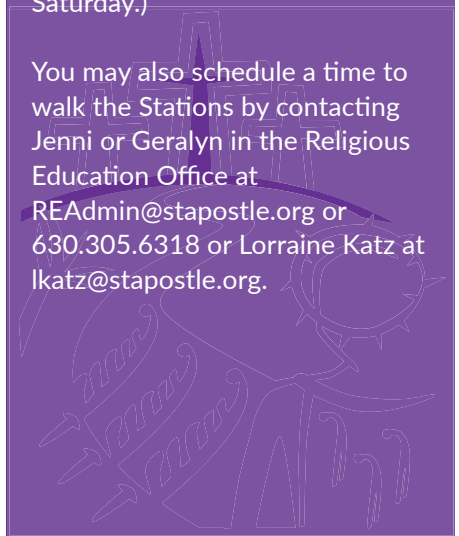
A free will offering will be taken to buy greatly needed food supplies for the St. Thomas Care Pantry.

### Family Stations of the Cross

Do you have 30 minutes? Families are invited to walk the Stations of the Cross inside the church. A prayer guide is available to borrow, leading your family through each station. It is geared for children and families.

Please visit the Religious Education office or the welcome desk in the Gathering Area to borrow a guide. (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.)

You may also schedule a time to walk the Stations by contacting Jenni or GERALYN in the Religious Education Office at [REAdmin@stapostle.org](mailto:REAdmin@stapostle.org) or 630.305.6318 or Lorraine Katz at [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org).



# Lenten Schedule

Monday–Saturday: 8:30 am Mass | Wednesday: 6:30 am Communion Service

## February

- 22 Ash Wednesday**  
6:30 am Communion Service with Distribution of Ashes  
8:30 am Mass\*\*  
12:00 pm Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes  
4:30 pm Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes (*family focus*)  
7:00 pm Mass

*Drive-thru ashes will be available at the Gathering Area doors from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm*

- 24** 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
**27** 7:00 pm Lent Taizé prayer\*  
**28** 12:00 pm Mid-Day Meditation

## March

- 1** 6:30 pm Soup and Bread Night  
**3** 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
**4** 4:30 pm Middle School Family Mass  
**6** 7:00 pm Mass in Celebration of St. Patrick  
**7** 12:00 pm Mid-Day Meditation  
**10** 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
**12** 4:30 pm Teens with Character  
**14** 9:00–10:00 am and 5:00–6:00 pm  
Drive-Thru Food Donations for Care Pantry  
**14** 12:00 pm Mid-Day Meditation  
**17** 6:00 pm Pause for Prayer  
**17** 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
**20–22** 7:00 pm Parish Mission “Walking on Holy Ground” *March 22 concludes with a communal liturgy offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation*  
**21** 12:00 pm Mid-Day Meditation  
**24** 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross  
**28** 12:00 pm Mid-Day Meditation  
**31** 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

## April

- 1–2** Easter Ham Collection  
**2** Easter Flower contributions due  
**3** 7:00 pm Holy Week Taizé prayer\*  
**4** 12:00 pm Mid-Day Meditation

## Holy Week Liturgies

### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

- Saturday, April 1 – Mass of Anticipation*  
4:30 pm Mass \*\*  
*Sunday, April 2*  
7:30 am Mass  
9:30 am Mass  
11:30 am Mass

### Monday, April 3 – Wednesday, April 5

- 8:30 am Mass

### Thursday of Holy Week (Holy Thursday)

- Thursday, April 6*  
**NO** 8:30 am Mass  
7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper\*\*  
*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will follow the conclusion of the Mass, ending with Night Prayer at 10:00 pm*

### Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

- Friday, April 7*  
**NO** 8:30 am Mass  
12:00 pm Living Stations of the Cross  
*Dramatized by the youth of St. Thomas the Apostle*  
3:00 pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord\*\*  
*Liturgy includes communal adoration of the Holy Cross and distribution of the Eucharist*

### Holy Saturday

- Saturday, April 8*  
**NO** 8:30 am Mass  
12:00 pm Blessing of Easter Food baskets  
*Outdoor blessing in front of Gathering Area doors*  
**NO** 3:30 pm Reconciliation or 4:30 pm Mass  
7:30 pm The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night\*\*

### Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

- Sunday, April 9*  
7:00 am Mass  
8:45 am Mass\*\*  
10:30 am Mass  
12:15 pm Mass

*Weekday mass schedule resumes Monday, April 10.*

(\*) denotes that liturgy will be livestreamed

(\*\*) denotes that liturgy will be livestreamed and Holy Communion will be distributed in the parking lot



## C.A.R.E CORNER

Aloysius de Gonzaga, an Italian aristocrat, was born in 1568. Around the age of 7, his father took him along to a battlefield so he would see what it was like. But a real battle ensued and the young boy was knocked to the ground where he was in danger of being trampled. He reported later that some kind of an unseen “force” saved him. During his life he experienced other such incidents of being saved and protected by an indescribable force. Aloysius developed a great devotion to angels and especially to his own guardian angel. People often described him as being an angel in human form.

Gonzaga joined the Jesuits in 1585 and studied in Rome, interacting with the likes of St. Robert Bellarmine and St. Charles Borromeo. During this time he wrote a book called *Meditations on the Holy Angels*. In Rome he took compassionate care of plague victims, but unfortunately became one himself. He died at the young age of 23 in 1591. He was canonized in 1726. He is the patron saint of students and Christian youth. Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington bears his name and sustains his lasting legacy.

### Marriage Enrichment Opportunity

“Marriage & the Messy Family: Making the Most of Your Mess.” That’s the focus of the presentation sponsored by the Inter-Parish Marriage Enrichment Team to be held from 9:00 am–1:00 pm Saturday, March 4 at Holy Spirit Catholic Community, 2003 Hassert Blvd., Naperville. Mike and Alicia Hernon of The Messy Family podcast will reassure you that you are not alone in the great adventure of marriage and family life. Gain insight, inspiration and practical tools to nurture your marriage and build unity and a Catholic culture in your home whether you are a parent or grandparent. Register NOW at [imetevents.org](http://imetevents.org) for \$50 per couple (\$45 per couple if ordered by February 19). You can mail a check payable to IMET to Cathy and Phil Gorski, 633 Maywood Ln., Lisle IL 60532, including your name, address, phone and email address.

### Mid-day Meditation

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus plaintively asks the apostles “Couldn’t you spend a little time in prayer with me?” A response to that is an invitation to you to participate in Mid-Day Meditation from 12:00–12:30 pm in the Chapel on the Tuesdays of Lent: February 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4. Come to reflect on Jesus’ pouring out his life for us and pour out to him your joys and sorrows, hopes and failures. He will hold you in his compassion.

### Middle School Families Invited to Come Together for Mass

Middle school students and their families are invited to celebrate the 4:30 pm Mass Saturday, March 4. After Mass, the celebration continues with a reception in the Gym. Join us as we pray and celebrate together.

### Ash Wednesday Family Prayer Service and Faith Activity

On Ash Wednesday, February 22, there will be a family prayer service with the distribution of ashes at 4:30 pm. Families are invited to attend the service together as a prayerful way to begin their Lenten journey.

Immediately after the service, from 5:15–6:15 pm, come to the Gym for dinner and to make a craft that can be used as a reminder of the Lenten season. The cost for dinner and craft supplies is \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Sign-up forms are available outside the RE office. If you have questions or would like more information, contact the RE office at 630.305.6318.

### First Grade Mass

First grade students and their families are invited to the First Grade Mass Sunday, February 19 at 11:15 am. The children have been learning about Jesus and the prayer Jesus gave us — The Lord’s Prayer. They will be part of the entrance procession. The children are also invited to bring pasta or spaghetti sauce for a Care Pantry donation.

St. Thomas is thankful for the first grade coordinator, Rosemary Karl, who prepares the lessons and shares her wisdom of teaching to the catechists throughout the year. Special thanks also goes to the first grade catechists Amy Fleishman, Natalina Hernandez, Lauren Smith and Lauren Wierzbinski and aides Rae Hibner, Laura Kmec, Ann Maynard and Sheila Maul who teach or help in the classes each week.

### Scripture Safari

St. Thomas Vacation Bible School is called Scripture Safari and will be here June 12–16 from 9:00 am–12:00 pm daily including a Mass June 17 at 4:30 pm. Registration forms to volunteer and participate will be available in April.



## Ash Wednesday Playlist: Signed with Ashes

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, the Church embarks on a 40-day journey of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as a way to heed the call to change our hearts. If you are searching for a way to begin the journey, check out the resources on the Ash Wednesday playlist, Signed with Ashes. The playlist, on the St. Thomas website, contains links to videos, articles and activities to make the start of Lent more meaningful for you and your family.

## Living Stations of the Cross

Middle school students are invited to be part of the Living Stations of the Cross prayer service on Good Friday, April 7. The Stations are prayerfully 'acted out' with still poses. This is a wonderful opportunity for middle school students to come to a deeper understanding of the gift of the Christ's love for us. Practices will be held weekly beginning Wednesday, March 1, from 4:30–5:30 pm. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Peggy Goralski at pgoralski@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x123.

## Fleeing for Your Life

Fleeing for Your Life was a wonderful learning experience for middle school students. From gathering items for the journey to encountering smugglers, from harrowing boat crossings with pirate encounters to tent city refugee camps, the refugee simulation opened our eyes to the plight of millions of our brothers and sisters who are forced to flee from their homeland. Our deep thanks and appreciation goes out to Jason Mohn and Exodus World Service for facilitating this opportunity for middle school religious education classes. See [stapostle.org](http://stapostle.org) for photos.

## High School Mission Trip Information Night – February 21

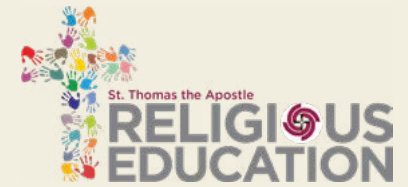
We will be having an information night Tuesday, February 21 at 7:00 pm. Registrations are now open for the Alive in You Mission Trip to Appleton, Wisc., July 11–16, 2023. For more information visit [stapostle.org](http://stapostle.org) or contact Dorothy Grantham at [ym@stapostle.org](mailto:ym@stapostle.org) or 630.852.3303, x117.

## Registration Open for National Catholic Youth Conference – November 16–18

Celebrate "Fully Alive" @NCYC with thousands of other Catholic teens from across the nation. For more information visit [ncyc.info](http://ncyc.info) or contact the Youth Ministry Office at [ym@stapostle.org](mailto:ym@stapostle.org). Outgoing 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to outgoing juniors will be eligible.

## Attention Tuesday RE Parents

Join us for fellowship and discussion Tuesdays 4:30–5:40 pm at Brookdale School starting February 21. It's hard for us, as parents, to fill ourselves up socially and spiritually while taking care of the needs of our children. Carve out a little time to join other parents with weekly topics on episodes from The Chosen series Season 1. You do NOT have to watch the episodes but it is an engaging series and encouraged. The main purpose is fellowship – getting to know one another in a faith-filled environment.



## Religious Education Dates

### Elementary

- **February 25, March 4:** Saturday Elementary RE sessions at All Saints Catholic Academy.
- **February 21, 28:** Tuesday Elementary RE sessions at Brookdale Elementary School.

### Middle School

- **February 27, March 6, 13:** Monday Middle School RE classes meet.
- **February 25, March 4, 11:** Saturday Middle School RE classes meet.

*Because of the President's Day holiday, there are no middle school RE classes on February 18 and 20.*

## Are you a Girl Scout?

The Girl Scout Mass is March 5 at 11:15 am. Contact Lorraine Katz at [lkatz@stapostle.org](mailto:lkatz@stapostle.org) or 630.355.8980, x109 to find out how you can be part of this special Mass.

### Girl Scout Cookie Sales

The All Saints Catholic Academy 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Brownie troop will be selling Girl Scout cookies for \$5 per box before and after all Masses February 25–26. Payment can be made with cash or Venmo. Hope to see you there!



## Question of the week

What is a loving way to respond to someone who has not been kind to you?



Michael Ryder, *Director*,  
x121, mryder@stapostle.org

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

Sally Meno, *Associate*,  
x137, smeno@stapostle.org



## PATH Zoom Meeting Stay Inspired and Resilient!

**Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 pm**

Karen Litzinger of Litzinger Career Consulting presents The Job Search Emotional Roller Coaster: Stay Inspired and Resilient!

You will learn ways to avoid the impact of negative emotions. Learn 20 mental, emotional, and physical techniques to help regain or keep a positive attitude.

Register for the Zoom meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91911111111>

## Race Card Project

Six words on the topic of race.

*“Race is separating someone by color.”*

*“Race: not a scientifically valid concept.”*

### Continue the conversation.

View the nearly 150 Race cards submitted on the Race Card Wall in the church hallway or go to [stapostle.org/race-card-submissions](http://stapostle.org/race-card-submissions). Go to the St. Thomas website home page to enter your Race Card.



at St. Thomas

## Lenten Prayer Vigil

A Lenten 40 Days for Life prayer vigil will be held at Planned Parenthood beginning Ash

Wednesday (February 22) and ending on Palm Sunday (April 2). The Prayer vigil location is Planned Parenthood (3051 E. New York St., Aurora) behind Waterleaf Women’s Center. Parking available at Waterleaf.

All are invited to add to your Lenten devotion by participating on any of the 40 days by simply going to the prayer vigil and spending an hour (or part of an hour) in prayer.

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



## Men of St. Thomas Prayer Breakfast

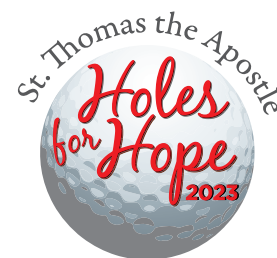
The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus are sponsoring the next Men’s Prayer Breakfast Saturday, February 25. We will come together for the 8:30 am Mass and then move to the Lighthouse for breakfast. Following breakfast, Joe Jackson, the Executive Director of Hesed House, will speak to the group.

The sign-up page is live on the St. Thomas website! To sign up, please visit [stapostle.org/mens-prayer-breakfast-sign-up/](http://stapostle.org/mens-prayer-breakfast-sign-up/). Sign-up is highly encouraged so that we can properly plan for the breakfast. You’re also encouraged to bring a friend! Email [deaconjoecuzzone@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjoecuzzone@gmail.com) with any questions.



## Think Summer! Think Outdoor Golf! Save the Date – Monday June 19, 2023

The 10<sup>th</sup> St. Thomas Holes-For-Hope Charity Golf Outing will return to Naperville Country Club. The Knights of Columbus are partnering with the OSJ Office to benefit St. Thomas Cares as our parish continues to provide various emergency funding services for individuals and families in need in the local area. You say you don’t golf. Then save the date for the dinner after the golf! More information soon.



## “Companions Journeying Together” Mother’s Day Project 2023

St. Thomas is joining with “Companions Journeying Together” to provide packets of stationery and note cards for incarcerated women and youth. Communication with loved ones and other people who can be supportive is very important for people who are imprisoned. It helps keep them grounded and better prepares them for their release. It is also important for families, especially children, to hear from their loved ones.



What this initiative means to women who receive the cards:

“The cards in my packet were so pretty. Thank you for remembering us.”

“You can’t know how much it means to know that there are people who care for me and my children.”

There will be a collection box in the Gathering area-through Wednesday, March 1, for the following supplies:

- stationery (these do not need to be complete sets)
- cards (blank note cards, “thank you,” “thinking of you,” Mother’s Day)
- gallon size Ziploc bags
- postage stamps

Please do not donate any of the following:

- cards, envelopes or stationery that have any glitter or anything glued, pasted or taped on them or have stickers attached. Nothing with crayon or marker.
- cards that have notes about Masses or novenas
- yellowed or very old cards or stationery
- pencils and ballpoint pens



## Soup & Bread Night

**Wednesday, March 1, 6:30–8:00 pm**

Each year, prior to shutting down during COVID-19, the St. Thomas Lector Ministry sponsored this event during Lent, designed to highlight the concept of getting back to the basics and showing solidarity with those who may have only soup and bread to eat, or even less. The Lector Ministry is pleased to renew this special tradition.

The beneficiary of this year’s free will donation is the St. Thomas Care Pantry. For fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the Care Pantry provided food to an average of 65 families and 323 individuals each month. Food costs are escalating. The amount of food provided to Care Pantry families has not decreased.



## St. Nicholas Thank You

St. Thomas has a “twinning” relationship with St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Aurora. St. Nicholas is a predominantly Mexican community. We received the following thank you from St. Nicholas at the end of the year.

*Dear Friends in Christ,*

*On behalf of me and the community of St. Nicholas, we would like to express our gratitude to all our brothers and sisters of St. Thomas the Apostle for their generosity. We want to thank you for the donations that were made to our parish in December 2022. Many families benefit from the food pantry, and we are able to keep the food pantry running with your collaboration.*

*May the Lord continue to bless you in all the days that lie ahead with faith, health, and abundance!*

*Sincerely yours in Christ,  
Re. Josue R Lara, Pastor*



# SERVICE COMMISSION – PASTORAL CARE

Annette Kubalanza, *Director*,  
x124, akubalanza@stapostle.org

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

Susan Kearney,  
*Behavioral Health Coordinator*, x108

## From the Office of Pastoral Care

### Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what does not satisfy? (Is 55:2)

*Wages: A Lenten Journey of Caring for the Body, Mind, Soul*

4 weeks: Wednesday, March 8–Wednesday, March 29 from 11:30 am–12:30 pm in the Gym

**Walking** – everyday at home and once weekly here (if you can)

**Awareness** – mindfulness, meditation

**Generosity** – do a kindness each day

**Eating healthy** – for your body, mind, spirit, attend mass, bring a friend

**Spirituality** – prayer, be the good news, be intentional

Contact Annette for more information at 630.355.8980, x124



PASTORAL CARE  
St. Thomas the Apostle

In continuing to examine the meaning of pastoral care, focus on the working definition that was explored last week. Pastoral care is caring for the whole person body and soul so that they can be equipped to live the gospel message of justice, goodness and humility that is modeled by Jesus in his person and in his ministry.

I recently read a wonderful passage from theologian and mystic Thomas Merton. Merton implies that all of life is a journey toward being permeated by the presence of God. What a wonderful image of the indwelling of God in all of creation.

Who can hide in secret places says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? (Jeremiah 23: 24).

Merton felt that self-knowledge was key to knowing God, but not in a self-absorbed way, rather in a self-discovering way ... a way that recognizes God within each of us. Merton believed that God didn't just create us and then disappear. He understood God's creative action as dynamic, ongoing and continuous.

Our vocation, he writes, is not simply to be, but to work together (with God) in the creation of our own life, our own identity, our own destiny (Seeds of Contemplation).

How will God work in and through you this week?

## February is American Heart Month About Heart Disease

The term "heart disease" refers to several types of heart conditions. The most common type of heart disease in the United States is coronary artery disease (CAD), which affects the blood flow to the heart. Decreased blood flow can cause a heart attack.

### What are the symptoms of heart disease?

Sometimes heart disease may be "silent" and not diagnosed until a person experiences signs or symptoms of a heart attack, heart failure or an arrhythmia. When these events happen, symptoms may include.

- **Heart attack:** Chest pain or discomfort, upper back or neck pain, indigestion, heartburn, nausea or vomiting, extreme fatigue, upper body discomfort, dizziness and shortness of breath.
- **Arrhythmia:** Fluttering feeling in the chest (palpitations).
- **Heart failure:** Shortness of breath, fatigue or swelling of the feet, ankles, legs, abdominal, or neck veins.

### What are the risk factors for heart disease?

High blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and smoking are key risk factors for heart disease. About half of people on the

United States (47%) have at least one of these risk factors. Several other medical conditions and lifestyle choices can also put people at a higher risk for heart disease, including:

- Diabetes
- Overweight and obesity
- Unhealthy diet
- Physical inactivity
- Excessive alcohol use

### Heart Disease Facts:

- Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men, women and people of most racial and ethnic groups in the United States.
- One person dies every 34 seconds in the United States from cardiovascular disease.
- About 697,000 people in the United States died from heart disease in 2020 – that's 1 in every 5 deaths.
- Heart disease cost the US about \$229 billion each year from 2017 to 2018. This includes the cost of health care services, medicines and lost productivity due to death.

*Resource: Excerpt: from American Heart Association Article*

# STEWARDSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION



Thank you for supporting St. Thomas the Apostle. To learn more about online giving, please visit our website and click on the Giving tab in the top menu bar.

## Weekly Sunday Offertory

February 5, 2023

Sunday Collection Offering*	\$16,047
Credit Card Online Giving (for January)	\$17,500
Automatic Direct Debit (5 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> each month)	\$20,478
Mailed in and stock donations	\$6,440
Total for the week	\$60,465
*Based on Collection Counters Reports prior to bank confirmation	
Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)	\$1,072,954
Weekly Average 7/1/2021 to date	\$33,530
Offertory Goal Year to date	\$1,078,523
Over/(short) of goal to date	(\$5,568)
Goal for Fiscal Year 7/1 to 6/30	\$1,752,599
Percent of Annual Sunday Offertory Goal	61%
Remaining for this fiscal year goal	\$679,645

This week, the Sunday collection is \$5,568 below goal so far this year. Capital needs restricted gifts were \$495 this past week. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.

## PrimeTime

### Save the Date – Take a Bite Out of Crime!

Join PrimeTime for an enlightening presentation by Fr. Peter as he discusses common scams targeting seniors and how to avoid becoming victimized by fraud. A delicious pasta luncheon will follow the presentation. Join us Tuesday, February 21 from 10:00–11:30 am in the St. Thomas Lighthouse. RSVP by February 20 to Judith Wolcott at wolcottjudith4@gmail.com or 630.605.2518. (Please note the new registration procedure.)



## The Week Ahead

Monday, February 20, 2023

Offices Closed for President's Day  
Building Closed after 8:30 am Mass in Chapel

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry Distribution  
10:00 am–12:00 pm PrimeTime, Lighthouse  
4:30–5:45 pm RE at Brookdale School  
7:00–8:30 pm Voices of Faith, Church and Lighthouse

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday  
9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center  
5:30–7:30 pm RE Family Faith Event, Gym

Thursday, February 23, 2023

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

Friday, February 24, 2023

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

Saturday, February 25, 2023

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

Sunday, February 26, 2023

9:00 am–1:00 pm Welcome Sunday and Donuts, Gym  
9:00 am–11:00 am Liturgy of the Word, Ministry Center  
9:30–11:30 am OCIA, Senior Center  
4:30–5:45 pm Confirmation Class, Lighthouse  
4:30–5:45 pm Journey Group, Youth Center  
7:15–8:30 pm Confirmation Classes, Lighthouse and Senior Center  
7:15–8:30 pm Journey Groups, Emmaus and Youth Center

## Attention Caregivers

### A Support Group Just for You

All caregivers, relatives and friends of those who struggle with anxiety, depression, bipolar, eating disorder or self-injury, please join us for an evening of prayer, discussion and reflection.

The upcoming meeting will be Thursday, February 23 from 7:00–8:00 pm at St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church, 2220 Lisson Rd. Naperville. Please enter through the back entrance of the church as the main entrance may be locked. Check the event board by the lower level entrance for the room number. Please email welisten2017@gmail.com or call Joe at 630.569.1635 with any questions.



## PARISH INFORMATION



# Welcome

Thank you for joining us.

### 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

### Church Office and Building 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.

### Pastor

Rev. Peter Infanger  
x102, pinfanger@stapostle.org

### Parochial Vicar

Rev. Joseph Kappilumakkal, CMI  
x103, jkapp@stapostle.org

### Weekend Associates

Rev. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.

### Deacons

Jim (Mary Jo) Breen, 630.486.3133  
jimb4853@gmail.com  
Joe (Carolyn) Cuzzone, 630.355.8980  
x224, DeaconJoeCuzzone@gmail.com  
Larry (Susan) Kearney, 630.355.8980  
x225, lrkearney@comcast.net

### Administration

*Communications Coordinator*  
Casey Braun, x110, cbraun@stapostle.org

*Administration Assistant*  
Mary Derwinski, x143,  
mderwinski@stapostle.org

*Facility Manager*  
Bob Hartmann, x133, facility@stapostle.org

*Main Office Administrative Assistant*  
Michelle Kuhn, x100,  
mainoffice@stapostle.org

*Main Office Administrative Assistant*  
Diane McQueen, x101,  
dmcqueen@stapostle.org

*Evening/Saturday Receptionists*  
Elizabeth Fisher  
Mary Wright  
nitecrew@stapostle.org

*Finance/Business Officer*  
Janet Simmons, x106,  
jsimmons@stapostle.org

*Financial Assistant*  
Sue Sportiello, x107,  
ssportiello@stapostle.org

*For a complete staff listing, please visit  
stapostle.org.*

### Parish Pastoral Council

Susan Wood O'Leary, *Chair*  
Noble Charles  
Dave Johanneson  
Alison Ohl  
Brittany Tres

*Commission Representatives*  
Cheryl Kaspar, *Worship*  
Rick Peterson, *Service*  
Scott Mygind, *Finance*  
Carrie Wujek, *Faith & Spiritual Formation*

### Ex-Officio

Rev. Peter Infanger, *Pastor*  
Rev. Joseph Kappilumakkal, *Parochial Vicar*  
Janet Simmons, *Recording Secretary*

### Sign-up for our Emails

Stay up to date with the latest happenings  
at St. Thomas by signing up for any of our  
emails at stapostle.org.

**Baptism:** Parents are required to attend  
a Baptismal awareness and renewal  
session prior to the Baptism. Call the Main  
Office a few months in advance to make  
arrangements.

**Reconciliation:** Reconciliation is  
available Saturday, 3:30–4:15 pm, in the  
Reconciliation Room of the Chapel. Our  
priests are available during the week by  
appointment.

**Matrimony:** A couple planning on being  
married at St. Thomas should contact the  
church six months to a year in advance.  
Either the bride or groom, or their parents,  
must be a registered parishioner at least  
three months before setting a date. Call  
Diane McQueen, x101, to schedule.

**Anointing:** Call 630.355.8980.

**Communion for the Homebound:** Call  
630.355.8980 to receive prayer/Eucharist  
from a Minister of Care.

**Funerals:** Call Samantha Delke, x120, for  
pre-planning or immediate need.

**Religious Education:** Call 630.305.6318 to  
register.

**OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for  
Adults):** Any person wanting to learn more  
about the Catholic Faith should call Chari  
Rosales, x138.

**Counseling Resources:** Call 630.355.8980.

### 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  
ascacademy.org  
630.961.6125  
Margie Marshall, *Principal*

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