



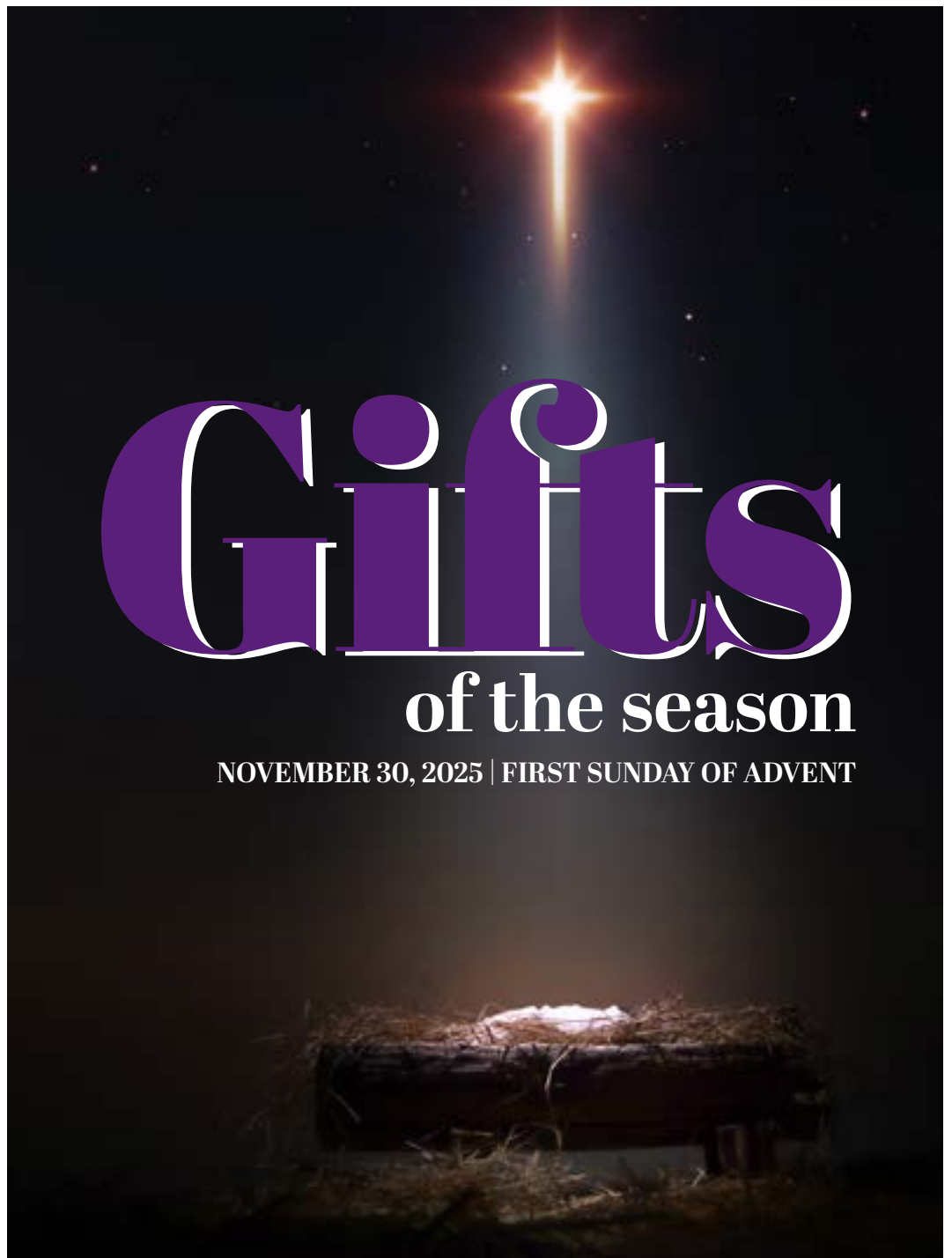
NOVEMBER
30
2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Our salvation is nearer now
than when we first believed; the
night is advanced, the day is at
hand. Let us then throw off the
works of darkness [and] put on
the armor of light.*

Romans 13:11B-12

**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,
service, friendship and
witness.*



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Liturgy Schedule

Daily

Mass: 8:30 am, Monday–Saturday
followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesdays

Communion Service: 6:30 am

Weekend

Saturday Mass of Anticipation: 4:30 pm
Sunday: 8:00 am, 9:30 am, 11:15 am and 6:00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration

First Friday: 9:00 am–12:00 pm and
First Sunday: 7:00–8:00 pm

The Sunday 9:30 am Mass is livestreamed.

1500 Brookdale Road, Naperville, IL 60563 | 630.355.8980 (Main Office) | 630.305.6318 (RE) | 630.355.0521 (Fax)
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For this week's Opening the Word, please visit stapostle.org.



Worship and Liturgy News

For more information on the activities listed below, please contact Scott Knisley in the Liturgy Office at sknisley@stapostle.org.

Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place Friday, December 5, from 9:00 am–12:00 pm in the Chapel. It will also be offered Sunday, December 7, from 7:00–8:00 pm in the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during the Eucharistic Adoration Sunday, December 7.

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Sign-ups

Advent is here! As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ, we invite individuals and families to take part in a special parish tradition — lighting and bringing forward the candles of the Advent wreath at the beginning of Mass each weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity for families, couples and individuals of all ages to participate in the liturgy in a meaningful way and help our community mark each step of the Advent journey. If you would like to take part, please sign up on the sheet located in the Narthex. You may choose the weekend and Mass time that works best for you. Let's come together as a parish family to share the light of hope, peace, joy and love this Advent season!

Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8, is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. St. Thomas will have Masses at 8:30 am and 7:00 pm on this day. This is a Holy Day of Obligation and it also offers the opportunity to celebrate the patronal feast of our country.

Advent Reconciliation

St. Thomas will have an Advent Reconciliation Service Wednesday, December 17, at 7:00 pm. The opportunity for individual confession with a Priest will conclude the service.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

3:00 pm (Church and Gym)

5:30 pm

9:30 pm Choir Concert

10:30 pm

Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

10:00 am

Presider Schedule for December 6–7

Saturday, December 6

4:30 pm: Fr. Bob Colaresi

Sunday, December 7

8:00 am: Fr. Peter Infanger

9:30 am: Fr. John Regan

11:15 am: Fr. John Regan, Deacon Tony Clishem

6:00 pm: Fr. Peter Infanger

Daily Readings

Please visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website at bible.usccb.org for the daily readings.



Lessons and Carols

Friday, December 12 at 7:00 pm

Join us for a beautiful evening of music and reflection as we celebrate the season with Lessons and Carols. Guest artists John Angotti, Tony Alonso and Meredith Augustin will join the St. Thomas music makers for this beloved annual tradition. Come warm up before with hot chocolate, sweet treats and fellowship beginning at 6:00 pm in the Gathering Area! Families are invited to enjoy the reception together.

Date Night for Lessons and Carols

Parents — enjoy a peaceful evening of worship and song while your kids have their own festive fun!

6:00 pm — Treats served for families to enjoy together

7:00 pm — Lessons and Carols begins in the church

Childcare Options

Nursery: Open for children ages 0–4

Gym: Open for children 5+ — Kids are invited to wear their favorite Christmas PJs, bring a blanket and enjoy a cozy movie night featuring *The Star* on the big screen!

Come celebrate the season, renew your spirit and share the joy of Christmas music together!



You are invited to make a donation toward the Christmas Environment/Flower Fund in recognition of a loved one. The names of these individuals will be on a display board at the Christmas Masses. A suggested donation of \$10 per name (exact change or check made payable to St. Thomas the Apostle) should be sent in 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.

Orders must be received by Sunday, December 14.

Christmas Environment/Flower Fund

I would like to make a contribution

In Honor of:

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

By:

PHONE #

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

Please return this form to the church office by Sunday, December 14.



Family Faith News

Nursery Christmas Celebration

Families with young children (babies through age 4) are invited to come together to the church nursery after 9:30 am Mass Sunday, December 7. Lisa Wehr, the Nursery Coordinator, will host an early Christmas celebration for families with little ones. Join us for Christmas songs, stories and fellowship. We hope to see you there!

Date Night for Lessons and Carols December 12

See complete details on page 2 of this week's bulletin.

Gingerbread Collection for Care Pantry Families

Faith Formation is sponsoring Care Pantry families this Christmas. Please consider blessing a local Care Pantry family with a gingerbread house kit (any kit from any retailer.) The Faith Formation team will collect donations at all RE class times and before/after Mass through Tuesday, December 9. Thank you for your generosity.

Join Our Next Alpha!

Our next course begins Thursday, February 19, from 6:30–8:30 pm in the Lighthouse. Registration opens January 15.



What is Alpha?

- A series of relaxed, interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith.
- Each evening includes a catered meal, short video and open, honest discussions in small groups.
- Open to everyone – whether you're curious, returning to church or wanting to grow in faith.
- Try the first one or two sessions before deciding if it's for you!

Highlights from Fall 2025 Alpha

- We always start with a meal and fellowship.
- The Alpha Day Away focused on the Holy Spirit and prayer, with time for reflection, worship and community.
- Participants enjoyed meaningful conversations, fun activities and deep connections.

Liturgy Schedule and Mass Intentions

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

- 4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*
†Sherman Brown by Richard and Adela Auskalnis
†Richard Bayne by Katie and Tom Kerestes
- 8:00 am †Slyvestor by the Noronha Family
- 9:30 am †Dave Pastrick by Carole Pastrick
†Nancy Funk by Linda Collins
- 11:15 am †Robert Rivan by Scott and Lori
- 6:00 pm Special Intention for Dacotha Fozzard by Peter and Mary Glatz

Monday, December 1, 2025

Advent Weekday

- 8:30 am †Ben Rosales by Mary Szczap

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

Advent Weekday

- 8:30 am Special intention for Craig Wheat by John and Felicia Lawlor

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Saint Francis Xavier, Priest

- 8:30 am †Anthony Frank Vodicka by Mary Wright

Thursday, December 4, 2025

Advent Weekday

- 9:00 am †Facundo Leda by The Mallorca Family

Friday, December 5, 2025

Advent Weekday

- 8:30 am Fr. Matt Lorenz by Joe and Carolyn Cuzzzone

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Advent Weekday

- 8:30 am †Anna Bryja by Daughter Barb
- 4:30 pm *Mass of Anticipation*
†Peter Pham Cong Pham by Anhhong Pham
†Madeleine Tho Nguyen by Anhhong Pham

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am †Kathy Edmunds by Mely and Buddy Mallorca
- 9:30 am †Ben Rosales by Richard and Adela Auskalnis
†Mila Refuerzo by the Mallorca Family
- 11:15 am †John Girardot the Barnhart Family
- 6:00 pm

Friends

After the printing of the prior insert — on the violations of human dignity surrounding migrants — our United States bishops issued a rare and urgent Special Message on the matter. This near-unanimous statement can be read in its entirety on the back of this page. It is the first time in twelve years that they have felt compelled to speak collectively in this way.

The bishops' message was direct: "We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people." They made it clear that they stand with immigrants in their suffering, citing 1 Corinthians 12:26: "When one member suffers, all suffer." The bishops also lift up all of those who are helping immigrants meet their basic needs and ask every one of us to expand our efforts.

Our own Bishop Hicks was eager to get the word out. In a letter to priests in the Diocese of Joliet on November 12, 2025, he described the statement as a "powerful and unified" message, one "deeply rooted in our Gospel tradition of loving our neighbor." He continued, saying that the bishops' statement "affirms our solidarity with all our brothers and sisters as it expresses our concerns, opposition, and hopes with clarity and conviction. It is grounded in the Church's enduring commitment to the Catholic social teaching of human dignity and a call for meaningful immigration reform."

Bishop Hicks asks us all to read and share the statement so that "its message of compassion and justice will influence our thoughts, words, and actions." He added, "May it also inspire the work we do together as a Church."

The New York Times, among many other news outlets, covered the release of this Special Message. The paper reported that the bishops rebuked the "aggressive deportation campaign" and "framed the immigration crisis in starkly moral terms." It also noted that the bishops "showed a united front in standing behind Pope Leo XIV," who had been requesting such a statement.

The article further explained that the bishops are sending a strong message to those leading the mass deportation efforts, some of whom identify as Catholic, as well as to "the millions of the church's immigrant families."

In an interview, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich of Chicago said, "This is a time of really reflecting on what's happening, and to not be afraid to respond to the need to defend the dignity of people." I, for one, could not agree with him more and I hope you do too.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Peter Infanger", followed by a small cross symbol.

Fr. Peter Infanger

Sources: USCCB.com and The New York Times, Nov. 12, 2025 Elizabeth Dias, Elizabeth. "Catholic Bishops Rebuke U.S. 'Mass Deportation' of Immigrants" The New York Times, 12 November 2025.





U.S. Bishops Issue a “Special Message” on Immigration

BALTIMORE, NOVEMBER 12, 2025— As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) gathered for their Fall Plenary Assembly in Baltimore, the bishops issued a Special Message addressing their concern for the evolving situation impacting immigrants in the United States. It marked the first time in twelve years the USCCB invoked this particularly urgent way of speaking as a body of bishops. The last one issued in 2013 was in response to the federal government’s contraceptive mandate.

Under the regulations pertaining to statements and publications of the Conference, a “Special Message” may only be issued at plenary assemblies, and they are statements which the President of the Conference, the Administrative Committee, or the general membership consider to be appropriate in view of the circumstances at the time. To show the consensus of the body, a Special Message must receive two-thirds of the Conference members present and voting at the plenary in order to pass. In a vote of **216 votes in favor, 5 votes against, and 3 abstentions**, the bishops overwhelmingly approved the Special Message, with sustained applause of the body following the vote. The full text of the bishops’ Special Pastoral Message follows:

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care.

We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

[Catholic teaching](#) exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation’s immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church’s teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God’s compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those

who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (Zechariah 7:10). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (Luke 10:30–37), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (Matthew 25). The Church’s concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord’s command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already [accompany and assist immigrants](#) in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

*As disciples of the Lord, we remain
[men and women of hope](#),
and hope does not disappoint! (cf.
Romans 5:5)*

May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer to the heart of Christ.



FAITH FORMATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Chari Rosales, *Director, Adult*
x138, crosales@stapostle.org

Jenni Kennedy, *Administrative Assistant*,
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Christine Goba, *Director, Elementary*
x109, cgoba@stapostle.org

C.A.R.E CORNER

We tend to think of the early Church as being very male dominated. And indeed it was. But there were many women involved as well. Women who were not treated well in secular society were very drawn to Christian beliefs and practices that included them and afforded them human dignity. Though it's rare, some of the names of those women actually appear in Scripture. Given that some are named, it's likely they acted in leadership roles in their communities. We can thank St. Paul for his letter to the Romans in which he acknowledges many female assistants.

Romans 16:1 cites Phoebe as a minister of a church in Greek territory. Paul goes on to recognize both Priscilla and her husband Aquila as saving his life. Interestingly, this husband and wife duo is cited six times in the New Testament and typically Priscilla is mentioned first. Perhaps she was the primary leader of her community. But in Romans 16, Paul goes on to cite Mary, Junia, and Olympas by name. He was obviously very grateful to all — including women — who assisted him in keeping the church communities that he founded alive and flourishing. We can all — male and female, young and old — play a part in keeping our local church community alive and thriving as well.

Advent by Candlelight — “Holy Notes in Unexpected Places”

Wednesday, December 3 at 7:00 pm in the Lighthouse

With all the busyness of the pre-Christmas season and secular Christmas music filling the airwaves before Thanksgiving, it's sometimes hard to maintain the spirit of Advent. This year's annual intergenerational women's gathering will focus on how we can find the sacredness of Advent in the most unlikely seasonal music. Come join us for an evening of fellowship, food and faith.

Scan the QR code or visit stapostle.org to sign up.



Advent Mid-day Meditation

Receive the gift of Advent peace. Join in Mid-day Meditation in the Chapel from 12:00–12:30 pm Tuesdays, December 2, 9 and 16.

Unwrap your heart and invite Jesus in — he's the ideal guest!

Upcoming Events

Join us for Pancake Breakfast — Support High School Youth Ministry

All are welcome to enjoy pancakes Sunday, December 7, from 9:00 am–1:00 pm in the Gym. These delicious pancakes, sausages, juice and coffee are made and served by adults and youth from our High School Ministry. Donations are much appreciated as they subsidize the rising costs of attending mission trips and conferences like NCYC and Steubenville.

Middle School/High School “Give a Gift, Be a Gift” Evening

Middle and high school students are invited to reflect on our Advent theme and prepare for Christmas together. Join us in the St. Thomas Lighthouse Saturday, December 13, from 5:30–7:30 pm. The event includes pizza, treats, wrapping gingerbread houses and decorating. Email acotner@stapostle.org if you have any questions. All students in grades 6–12 are welcome.

CREW Christmas Party | December 21 | 4:15–5:45pm

More details coming soon.

Please reach out to Ann Cotner at acotner@stapostle.org with any questions, suggestions or feedback.



This CREW enjoyed reflecting on being thankful and blessed in November by discussing the songs “This is Amazing Grace” by Phil Wickham and “Counting my Blessings” by Seph Schlueter, then enjoying pizza and pumpkin pie.

FAITH FORMATION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Laura Kmec, *Family Ministry*
lkmec@stapostle.org

Ann Cotner, *Coordinator, Middle School*,
x121, acotner@stapostle.org

Rob Katzberg, *Director, Youth/Young Adult*,
x117, ym@stapostle.org



Calling all Angels, Shepherds, Kings and More

St. Thomas youth are invited to participate in the Children's dramatized proclamation of the Gospel at the 3:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve. Many volunteers are needed, including a special baby, to bring the story of the birth of Jesus to life. Join us at the first practice Monday, December 1, from 4:30–5:30 pm in the Church. Costumes are provided. Contact Chris Goba at cgoba@stapostle.org if interested in being a part of this special tradition.



Middle School Faith Formation

Upcoming Monday sessions

December 1, 8, 15

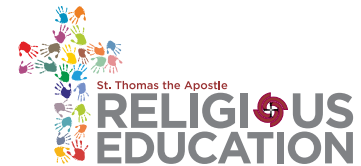
Upcoming Saturday sessions

December 6, 13, 20

Please reach out to Ann Cotner at acotner@stapostle.org with any questions, suggestions or feedback.

RE Tuition Angel

Would you like to be a tuition angel for a family attending Religious Education (RE) classes? No child should be denied being taught about God just because their parents cannot afford to send their children. For some of our St. Thomas families, it is a struggle to pay RE tuition. If you can help, the fees are: \$175 for one child, \$290 for two children or \$380 for three children. Please make checks payable to St. Thomas the Apostle Church with tuition angel in the memo line.



Send your donation to the Faith Formation/Religious Education Office. Thank you for your generosity. It is greatly appreciated. By sponsoring the faith formation of a child – by passing your faith forward – you help to lay the foundation and shape the future of both our children and the whole of our Catholic community.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word continues each week at 9:30 am Mass until winter break. During the Liturgy of the Word at 9:30 am Mass, the children Pre-K to Grade 3 are invited to gather separately to hear the Gospel story of the day proclaimed in language, activities, music and prayer appropriate to their age. There is no registration required. If you have any questions, please reach out to Chris Goba at cgoba@stapostle.org.



Elementary Religious Education

November and December Calendar

November 30

Family Faith Event – Advent

December 2 and 6

Regular class

December 9

No Class Catechist Meeting

December 13 and 16

Regular class

December 20

Regular class

Scan the QR code for the full calendar or visit stapostle.org.



Sunday Nursery

The Sunday nursery is open during the 9:30 am Mass. Children walking age 1 to age 4 can be dropped off by a parent/guardian during Mass. Children play supervised by our Nursery Coordinator and trained volunteers while parents can worship in church. No pre-registration is required. All families are welcome.



OUTREACH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Peggy Goralski, *Director*,
x123, pgoralski@stapostle.org

Nicole Hanks, *Partner*,
x113, nhanks@stapostle.org



Our Lady of Guadalupe

On December 9, 1531, on the hill of Tepeyac in Mexico, Mary appeared to a peasant, Juan Diego. Her presence was a gift of love and reassurance, reminding us that we, too, are called to be bearers of compassion.

On Saturday, December 13, at the 4:30 pm Mass, members of the St. Nicholas community (our twinning parish) will provide a re-enactment of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Join us for a prayerful and hopeful experience ... and a reception following Mass.

Gaza Second Collection Results

The second collection for Gaza was split between Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA).

Each organization received \$4,124.50. Your generosity will help provide emergency relief, medical care, food and shelter to those in desperate need.

Thank you for your continued generosity.

LEAP November 2025

Learn

November is a time of remembrance including All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. We also remember those among us who work for peace and justice. As we turn toward Advent, this spirit of gratitude and remembrance become the ground from which we prepare our hearts for Christ's coming — renewing our hope in a world made new.

Explore

Many names come to mind when we think of justice movements. We are grateful for those who take on big problems in big ways. There is a place for making a difference in more personal ways, based on things we see in our world and using our experience and talents.

Some contemporary models for holy social justice work include:

Sr. Simone Campbell, SSS, religious leader, attorney and poet with extensive experience in public policy and advocacy for systemic change, known for work with Nuns on the Bus and the NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice.

Delores Huerta, labor leader and civil rights activist; co-founder of the United Farm Workers Association, Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award recipient.

Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ, founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang-intervention, rehabilitation and work reentry program for teens and young adults. Named Champion of Change and recipient of the University of Notre Dame Laetare Medal.

Tonika Lewis Johnson, Chicago-based social justice artist, MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant recipient, Folded Map Project™; <https://bit.ly/47Z6IUj>

James Martin, SJ, author, editor-at-large *America Magazine*, founder of Outreach, an LGBTQ+ ministry, consultant to the Vatican's Dicastery for Communication.

Act

Living our faith means seeking justice and serving others. Consider how your abilities and experiences can help address needs in our community. Mentoring first-generation college students or assisting families transitioning from being unhoused are just two examples of ways to use your experience.

Pray

Let us pray for justice:

God of compassion and righteousness,

We ask for your guidance as we seek justice in our world.

Open our hearts to the needs of others and give us courage to act with fairness and mercy.

Help us to use our gifts to serve those who are marginalized and to build communities rooted in love and equity.

May your Spirit inspire us to pursue justice, peace, and dignity for all.

Amen.

OSJ Holiday Giving Opportunities

As we prepare for Christmas, we offer these holiday giving opportunities for you to consider:

Care Pantry Christmas Gift Cards: We are collecting gift cards from Meijer, Target and Walmart in denominations of \$10, \$20 and \$25. Gift cards will be accepted until Sunday, December 14. You can drop the gifts cards off at church (ATTN: Nicole). In lieu of gift cards, you can write a check made payable to St. Thomas OSJ with Christmas Gifts in the memo. Please be sure to include your name with your donation!

Christmas Ham and Turkey Drive: The Christmas Ham and Turkey Drive will take place December 13–14. Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry, St. Nicholas in Aurora, Queen of the Apostles in Joliet and the St. Thomas Care Pantry will benefit. Reminder cards will be available the weekend of December 6–7.

Haiti Christmas Cards: This Christmas, we will be donating our Sponsor-a-Child proceeds to the children at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage and Ecole Notre Dame di Perpetuel School (the ministry of Ertha Papillon). Checks can be made to St. Thomas OSJ with Ertha in the memo. A Haitian Christmas Card which explains how the donation is used will also be offered. *(Cards available in the Gathering Area and the OSJ office.)*

Swaddling Project: Gift bags will be available December 20–21. Donated items will be collected in the playpen in the Gathering Area until January 11.

The OSJ office is extremely grateful for your support. Thanks so much!

Hesed House PADS December 4 Food Donation Sign-Up

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

We are now asking for donations for Thursday, December 4.

If you are willing and able to provide food for December, you can sign up on the St. Thomas website at stapostle.org for specific items. If you enjoy cooking, you can sign up to prepare the entrée or the dessert. Recipes and pans are provided. If cooking is not your greatest gift, there are many other items needed.

Please deliver all items to the St. Thomas Gathering Area Thursday, December 4, before 4:00 pm. Thanks to all who can help.

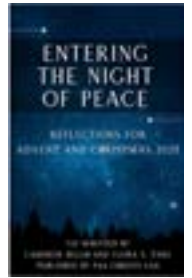


Donating a Vehicle

St. Thomas CARES often receives requests for assistance with car repairs. Sometimes, our mechanic advises that the car is not repairable. When that happens, a family is left without any means of transportation. Often, this also impacts a person being able to work. If you are thinking of replacing a vehicle and are able to consider donating the car please reach out to Peggy Goralski in the Outreach Office at pgoralski@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x123. A donated car is a tremendous blessing.

Pax Christi Advent Reflection Booklets

If you are looking for something to guide your prayer and reflection as we begin Advent, take a copy of Pax Christi USA's *Entering the Night of Peace*, co-authored by Cameron Bellm and Flora X. Tang.



This reflection book offers poetic and thought-provoking reflections for the Advent season. These daily meditations are ideal for personal prayer or family and group discussion.

Copies are available in the Gathering Area. We invite you to take one and join us in prayer. Let this booklet be a gift to your spirit guiding you through the season with peace.

Pax Christi USA Advent Prayer Services

Join Pax Christi USA each Monday at 7:00 pm via Zoom to pray together during this holy season of anticipation. The prayer service will last approximately 30 minutes. For more information and the Zoom link, go to paxchristiusa.org.

Becoming a Gift of Hope for the Poor

As Advent begins, we light the first candle of Hope and remember that Christ Himself is God's greatest gift to a world in need. Jesus enters our human story not with wealth or power, but in simplicity and poverty — showing us that God's gifts often come quietly and unexpectedly.

This week, the OSJ office invites you to reflect on how we can be a gift of hope to those who struggle: families facing food insecurity, neighbors burdened by rising costs and individuals who feel invisible during the holidays. Advent reminds us that hope grows when we allow ourselves to become the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world.

"O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the Light of the Lord." — Isaiah 2:5

May we be that light — God's gift of hope to our community.



PASTORAL CARE AND WELLNESS

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

Nancy Kratz, Ph.D., *Wellness Coordinator*,
x104, nkratz@stapostle.org

Jane Zimmerman, *Pastoral Care Associate*,
x108, jzimmerman@stapostle.org



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care At A Glance

Prayer with a Partner

Every Sunday in the chapel
following the 9:30 am Mass

Grief Support

Call 630.355.8990, x124 for
information
Coming December 16 "Hope Café"

Spiritual Direction

Please call Jane Zimmerman in the
Pastoral Care office for information.

Blood Pressure Screening

December 6, after 4:30 pm Mass
and December 7, after 9:30 and
11:15 am Masses

PrimeTime Event

December 9, 10:00 am
Christmas Party and Barbershop
Quartet

Prayer Shawl Ministry Meeting

December 18, 10:00 am
Emmaus Room

PrimeTime Christmas Party

Join us for the PrimeTime "Diamonds in the Sky" Christmas
Party Tuesday, December 9, from 10:00 am–12:00 pm.

This holiday event will include a delicious brunch consisting
of egg casseroles, fruit, bread, favors filled with goodies and
candy, beverages including coffee and water along with a
chance to win a raffle prize. For your enjoyment, a Barbershop
quartet from the celebrated Chorus of DuPage will entertain us with festive music.
Registration is required for this festive event. Call today as this program fills up
quickly! All are welcome!

RSVP no later than Sunday, December 7, to Phyllis Wempe at PTregistration@
hotmail.com or 630.728.3227.



"Hope Café" A Loving Look at Loss and Grief

December 16, 10:30 am–12:00 pm

For those experiencing
loss and grief, the
Pastoral Care team
is offering the "Hope
Café" where anyone
can drop in for sharing,
prayer and reflection
with a warm drink and
pastries. The Café will
be open once each
month. No reservation
needed.

Check in at the
St. Thomas at the
Reception Desk.

For more information contact Jane Zimmerman or Annette Kubalanza at
630.355.8980 in the Pastoral Care office.



What is Spiritual Direction?

Do you ever feel the need just to
be heard? To have your experience
understood and validated? To be
supported in prayer and contemplation?
Spiritual Directors are focused
listeners who can listen deeply
without judgment or advice, and offer
compassion and support. They create
a safe space for prayer, self-reflection
and companionship on your spiritual
journey. If interested, you're invited to
call Jane Zimmerman, Pastoral Care
Associate, at 630.355.8980, x108.

St. Thomas Consulting and Referral Services

Did you know the Wellness and Pastoral Care staff at St. Thomas offers you the
opportunity to talk with a professional about life issues, faith concerns or helpful
community resources? For more information about this helpful service, please
contact Nancy Kratz, Ph.D., at nkratz@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x104 or
Annette Kubalanza Ed.D., at akubalanza@stapostle.org or 630.355.8980, x124.

ADMINISTRATION AND STEWARDSHIP



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.

Sunday Collection Report

Our Sunday Collection Report for the previous month is below. A monthly report reflects the relationship of the actual collection to the seasonally adjusted budgeted growth goal for each month and year to date.

Sunday Collection Report			
For September			
Envelopes and loose cash		\$71,653	
Credit card online giving		\$25,576	
Automatic Direct Debit (5 th and 20 th each month)		\$45,755	
Donations from Charitable Giving Accounts		\$54,997	
Sunday Collection Offering — September 2025		\$197,981	
Sunday Collection Goal — September 2025		\$232,158	
Above/(Below) Growth Goal for month		(\$34,177)	
Sunday Collection 7/1/2025 to date		\$478,624	
Sunday Growth Goal 7/1/2025 to date		\$544,154	
Over/(short) of Growth Goal to date		(\$65,530)	
Monthly Average 7/1/2025 to date		\$159,541	
Sunday Growth Goal for Fiscal Year (7/1 to 6/30)		\$2,051,175	
% of Annual Sunday Growth Goal to date		23.33%	
Remaining for this fiscal year Sunday Growth Goal		\$1,572,551	
Capital needs restricted gifts were \$2,066 this past month. We are grateful to those who recognize the need and responded.			
2025 Diocesan Appeal as of 11/17/25			
	2025	2024 (final)	2024 Final vs. Current
Parish Appeal Goal*	\$170,100	\$157,500	\$12,600
Parish Amount Pledged	\$208,932	\$212,709	(\$3,777)
Unpaid pledges	\$10,318	\$4,868	(\$5,450)
Paid to Date	\$198,614	\$207,841	(\$9,227)
Number of Appeal Donors	583	602	(19)
Rebate to St. Thomas (70% of funds raised above goal)	\$19,960	\$35,239	(\$15,279)
Rebate used for St. Thomas Evangelization Goal			
*Our annual goal for the CMAA is higher this year than for 2024 because St. Thomas Sunday giving was higher in 2024. Thank you for your generosity!			

The Week Ahead

Monday, December 1, 2025

4:30–5:30 pm Pageant Practice, Church
7:00–8:15 pm Middle School RE, Ministry Center

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

9:30–11:30 am PrimeTime Team, Judea
10:00–11:00 am Care Pantry Distribution, Outside
12:00–12:30 pm Advent Meditation, Chapel
3:45–4:30 pm Youth Choir, Church
4:30–5:45 pm Elementary RE, Ministry Center
7:00–9:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, Church

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

9:15–11:15 am Wednesday Bible Study, Senior Center
6:30–8:30 pm Pax Christi, Cana
6:30–8:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul, Senior Center
6:30–8:30 pm Worship Commission, Emmaus
6:00–8:00 pm Trees up in Church and Gym
7:00–8:30 pm Ensemble Rehearsal, Church
7:00–9:00 pm Advent by Candlelight, Lighthouse

Thursday, December 4, 2025

9:15–11:15 am Thursday Bible Study, Senior Center
6:30–8:30 pm LIFE Team, Gym and Youth Center
7:00–8:30 pm Genesis Rehearsal, Church

Friday, December 5, 2025

9:00 am–12:00 pm First Friday Adoration, Chapel

Saturday, December 6, 2025

9:00–10:30 am Saturday Men's Group, Judea
3:30–4:15 pm Reconciliation, Chapel
5:30–6:00 pm Blood Pressure Screening, West Wing

Sunday, December 7, 2025

8:00–9:00 am Choir Rehearsal, Lighthouse
9:00 am–1:00 pm Pancake Breakfast, Gym
10:30–11:00 am Prayer Partners, Chapel
1:00–2:00 pm Baptism, Church
4:15–5:45 pm High School, RE Classes, Ministry Center
7:00–8:00 pm Adoration, Church
7:15–8:45 pm High School RE Classes, Ministry Center

Thank You for Supporting St. Thomas

Scan the QR code and follow the prompts to make your gift today. We are grateful for your financial gifts enabling us to continue all of God's good works here at St. Thomas! Thank you!





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

Regular hours are 8:30 am–4:30 pm
Monday through Thursday and
8:30 am–12:30 pm Friday.
The reception desk in the
Gathering Area is staffed
8:30 am–8:00 pm Monday–Thursday;
8:30 am–12:30 pm Friday; and
9:00 am–1:00 pm Saturday.
Schedule subject to change.

Pastor

Rev. Peter Infanger
x102, pinfanger@stapostle.org

Priest in Residence

Rev. John Regan
x103, jregan@stapostle.org

Weekend Associate

Rev. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.

Deacons

Joe (Carolyn) Cuzzone, 630.355.8980
x224, DeaconJoeCuzzone@gmail.com

Tony (Carol) Clishem,
aclishem@sbcglobal.net

Staff (not listed elsewhere in the bulletin)

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

Communications and Promotions Director
Casey Braun, x110, cbraun@stapostle.org

Evangelization and Missionary Discipleship Director

Dorothy Grantham, x220,
dgrantham@stapostle.org

Evening/Saturday Receptionists

Elizabeth Fisher
Mary Wright
nitecrew@stapostle.org

Facility Manager

Bob Hartmann, x133, facility@stapostle.org

Finance/Business Officer

David Schwalm, x106,
dschwalm@stapostle.org

Main Office Administrative Assistant

Michelle Kuhn, x100,
mkuhn@stapostle.org

Main Office Administrative Assistant

Diane McQueen, x101,
dmcqueen@stapostle.org

Nursery Coordinator

Lisa Wehr, lwehr@stapostle.org

Social Media and Marketing Assistant

Madalyn Eathington,
meathington@stapostle.org

Weekend Receptionist

Kathy Durante

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

Parish Pastoral Council

Jason Durnas
Kathie Kapustka
Thomas Kennedy
Terry Sullivan, *Chair*

Commission Representatives

Lugenia Thomas, *Worship*
Rick Peterson, *Service*
Scott Mygind, *Finance & Administration*
Mary Hronek, *Faith & Spiritual Formation*
Kathy Sander, *Parish Life*

Ex-Officio

Rev. Peter Infanger, *Pastor*
David Schwalm

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 Michelle Kuhn,
x100, 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 Lori Culberson, 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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