



St. Thomas

THE Apostle
CATHOLIC CHURCH

"God's people in *Extraordinary* variety"

Serving Hyde Park's Catholic Community since 1869

February 2, 2020

Presentation of the Lord

Parish Offices: Hours:

Weekdays: 7am-3pm

Sunday: 9am-11am

Located at 55th & Woodlawn

5472 S. Kimbark Avenue

Chicago, IL 60615-5297

Phone: (773) 324-2626

Fax: (773) 891-0602

parishoffice@stapostleparish.org

Fr. Christopher Kituli

Extension 107

Deacon: Deacon Kurt Davis

Parish Office:

Lisa J. Couch, secretary

(773) 324-2626

Parish Voicemail box, ext. 0

Director of Parish Operations

Paula Jones, ext. 109

Music Ministry Ed Martin

Liturgist

Jennifer Davis, ext. 102

Bulletin Editor Lissa Romell

Parish School

Timothy Gallo, *Principal*

5467 S. Woodlawn Avenue

Chicago, Illinois 60615-5299

telephone: (773) 667-1142

Fax: (773) 891-0602

www.stapostleschool.com



Please don't
forget the
poor boxes.

M

y eyes have seen



your salvation.

~Luke 2:30

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

Mass Schedule

Sunday

8:30am & 11am

Monday-Friday

8:30am

Saturday

8:30am & 4pm

Holy Days

8:30am

Confession

Saturdays, 3-3:30pm.

Baptism

Please contact the Parish Office.

Marriage

Please make arrangements eight months in advance.

Membership

Please register at the Parish Office

Come visit us at www.stapostleparish.org



Please join us for donuts and coffee in the Parish Hall after Mass. Today's Hospitality features our **Domestic Violence Outreach**.

Today's Readings:

Malachi 3:1-4 ♦ Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10 ♦ Hebrews 2:14-18 ♦ Luke 2:22-40
 †Wilma L. McDaniel; †Estela Kim; †Anatolio Soriano

We encourage you to prepare yourself for next weekend's liturgy by reading and praying the scriptures (visit www.usccb.org).

Next Sunday's Readings: Presentation of the Lord

Isaiah 58:7-10 ♦ Psalm 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 ♦ 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 ♦ Matthew 5:13-16

Weekday Mass Intentions

Weekday Masses are held in the Daily Mass Chapel at 8:30 a.m.

MONDAY, February 3

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 ♦ Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 ♦ Mk 5:1-20

The man had been dwelling among the tombs... Mk 5:3

Julius Horvath (speedy recovery)

†Anatolio & Celerina Soriano

†Peter Brinkman

TUESDAY, February 4

Readings: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3 ♦ Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 ♦ Mk 5:21-43

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years... Mk 5:25

†Alice Barland, †Irene Woodruff

WEDNESDAY, February 5

St. Agatha

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 ♦ Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6-7 ♦ Mk 6:1-6

What kind of wisdom has been given him? Mk 6:2

†Dr. Herman Neal, †Rebecca Hollo

Julius Horvath (speedy recovery)

THURSDAY, February 6

St. Paul Miki and Companions

Readings: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 ♦ 1 Chron 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd ♦ Mk 6:7-13

Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet. Mk 6:11

†Frank Yurco

FRIDAY, February 7

Readings: Sir 47:2-11 ♦ Ps 18:31, 47 & 50, 51 ♦ Mk 6:14-29

The king was deeply distressed...but he did not wish to break his word. Mk 6:26

†Anthony Gomes

†Valerie Denise Holloway

John Gould III (birthday blessings!)

Julius Horvath (speedy recovery)

SATURDAY, February 8

Readings: 1 Kgs 3:4-13 ♦ Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 ♦ Mk 6:30-34

Within my heart I treasure your promise. Ps 119:11

†Anthony Gomes

†Lorraine Pettigrew

†Adam John Brinkman

TODAY: Join us for Hospitality featuring STA Domestic Violence Outreach



We invite you to join us today after Mass for hospitality featuring our STA Domestic Violence Outreach. Our DVO ministry provides education and assistance to the parish

community regarding domestic violence. The committee works in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Chicago Domestic Violence Outreach and its mission to provide awareness, services, and prevention throughout the archdiocese.



Knights of Columbus

General Meeting:

TODAY SUNDAY, February 2nd,
9:45am, School Office

Any questions about events or how to become a Knight; please contact Grand Knight Harold Gauthier at haroldgauthier@gmail.com



First Friday Adoration will be held in the daily mass chapel every first Friday of the month from 9am to 3pm. The sign up sheet is outside of the chapel door.

This Week's Calendar



SUNDAY, February 2
Blessing of Throats

9:30am:
Sacramental Prep.,
2nd fl.

9:45am: *Knights of*

Columbus, Parish Office

12:30pm: *Charismatic Prayer, 110*

WEDNESDAY, February 5

7am: *Finance Mtg.*

7:30pm: *Contemporary Choir*

SATURDAY, February 8

3pm: *Confessions*

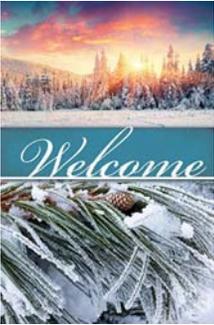
SUNDAY, February 9

9:30am: *Sacramental Prep., 2nd fl.*

12:30pm: *St. Vincent de Paul, 100*

12:30pm: *Charismatic Prayer, 110*

12:30pm: *Baptism Class*



We're so glad you're here and invite you to journey in faith with us. We believe the church is the sacrament of God's saving presence in the world.

Our goal is to provide a spiritual home where all are welcome, where the healing, reconciling, liberating love of God flows through us to all people.

If you have any questions about our parish, look for the members of the Welcoming ministry. They are wearing green sashes and are here for you!

Would you like to become a parishioner? Please contact one of our ushers or call Lisa at the Parish Office, 773-324-2626.



If you or a loved one wish to receive communion at home or in a nursing home, please call Lisa at 773-324-2626, & she will arrange for a Minister of Care to visit.

A Word from Fr. Chris: Water Bills

Dear parishioners and friends of Saint Thomas the Apostle, Peace be with you.

A week after Christmas I included in my bulletin article a request for the support of our building fund. Thank you to the generous hearts that have been very loving and supporting. Thank you for your donations and quick response to the needs our church. I continue to encourage all of us to participate in supporting our Parish.

I know how these are tough and tight moments with our economy, but I do have a matter of urgency that needs your support. Last week, I received some tough news from the Archdiocese Capital Assets Department regarding our water bills. Please see the letter below sent to me by the above office:

January 15, 2020

“Dear Fr. Kituli:

We wanted to make you aware of some recent developments with your water service. Due to certain buildings at the parish not being metered, you have not received a water bill from the City in several years. We have been working with the City to address this issue and to reconcile the amounts potentially due for these years of service. We have reached an agreement with the City to address these historic charges and, as a result, you will be receiving a bill shortly, if you have not received one already. The bill you receive represents the last six months of estimated usage, rather than the entirety of the unbilled period, stretching over many years. The savings to the parish are substantial, but these bills now must be paid on a going-forward basis. Additionally, the City included a new application for non-profit status with these bills. That application will also need to be completed, but only once the water meter has been installed.

The bill you will receive are for the following buildings: 5464-74 S KIMBARK AVE

The fact that the parish's water service is unmetered is detrimental for several reasons. First, non-metered accounts in the City of Chicago do not qualify for the non-profit water fee exemption and, therefore, the parish will be responsible for the full water bill rather than sewer charges only, which would reduce the bill be approximately 50%. Second, because there is no meter to measure actual usage, monthly water fees are formulaic and are based on the size of the building, number of fixtures and other factors that would impact water usage. For buildings with limited usage, the formula overstates actual usage. For these reasons, it is imperative that a meter is installed at the parish as quickly as possible. The Archdiocese Planning and Construction Department has been working with a plumbing contractor to develop an installation plan for all non-metered parishes. The estimated cost for each meter installation ranges from \$20,000-\$35,000, which typically includes the installation of a new water service to the buildings, which, in most cases, is now required by the City. Each water account will require a separate meter. The parish will be responsible for the cost of the water meter installation, but those costs will be offset by future savings in the form of significantly lower water bills, in most cases. The Archdiocese Planning and Construction Department will help facilitate the meter installations.

To summarize:

- *The parish has, or will, receive a water bill shortly. That bill represents the previous six months of usage rather than the entirety of historic, unbilled fees. The bill needs to be paid, as do future bills, which will now arrive on a regular basis;*

- *Installation of a water meter will ensure the parish is eligible to receive the non-profit exemption in the future (which removes the water charge portion of the bill, leaving only the sewer charges).*

- *As such, water meters need to be installed as soon as practical; to assist with this process, you will be*

(Cont'd on p. 5)



Dates to Remember

February 4

All School Mass at 8:30 am

February 5

*Hearing and Vision Screening
State of the School Meeting at
6:00 pm*

February 6

Hearing and Vision Screening

February 7

*Spirit Day and Community
Celebration*

February 11

All School Mass at 8:30 am

February 14

*Happy Valentine's Day
NO SCHOOL—Teacher In-
Service*

February 17

NO SCHOOL—President's Day

February 18

All School Mass at 8:30 am

Visit STA!

*Tours and shadow visits are
offered for prospective
families on Wednesdays &
Fridays from 8:30-9:30 am &
9:30-10:30 am.*

*Please sign-up in advance on
our school's website:*

www.stapostleschool.com

***Facebook: @stapostleschool
Instagram: @stthomasapostle***



STA Young Alumni Highlight

Yaleigh Harris

STA Class of 2018

Francis Parker Class of 2022



It is an invaluable practice for me to reflect on my journey as a student, as it reminds me of how I got to where I am today as a student. St. Thomas the Apostle School (or simply STA) has been a very important part of that journey. I was a student at STA for two years but not just any two years. I attended STA for middle school, the two critical years prior to high school. This was at a time when I was learning how to navigate peer pressure, my emotions, independence, organization, and just stuff. I got to navigate these challenges in the supportive environment of STA. The Archdiocese of Chicago Schools has a reputation for providing students with a sound academic foundation, and STA follows in this tradition. However, it is a vision for its students beyond academics that was helpful to me. Another STA parent said it best when he called it “heart learning.” When I think of what best prepared me for high school in my two years at STA, I would not say the “head learning” or academics. It was the heart learning.

Here is some of what I learned at STA from the heart: (1) I learned what it means to be in a supportive academic environment... (2) I learned to have a deeper understanding of myself and to appreciate my gifts... (3) I learned to practice my faith. While I am not Catholic, I am Christian. What I learned at STA are principles of faith communities. I learned to incorporate tools and practices on a more regular basis than just Sunday. It is okay to pray in the middle of the day, in the middle of the week, and at school. As a high school student, when I get frustrated over test results or I don't fully understand a lesson or when there are conflicts with others, prayer, mediation and scriptural reading are important tools of my faith. (4) I learned how to be involved in my school community and be a leader among my peers. While all students at STA help cultivate this culture, in the middle school in particular, we were required to be intentional and mindful about how we use our down time and engage in non-academic learning opportunities. For example, we got the opportunity to earn positions of leadership in the middle school. This foundation gave me the courage to try different things in high school and become involved in my high school in meaningful ways, including governance. My mother says aspects of “heart learning” are really traits that prepare students for college and beyond. So, I guess that STA not only prepares students for high school, but it prepares students for life, including life beyond high school.

I am currently a sophomore at Francis W. Parker School, in Lincoln Park. I am a member of the orchestra, where I play violin. I am active in the Women of Color Affinity group... I am a small groups leader, which is an appointed position. I also participate in the Parker Democrats Club.

STA is proud to call Yaleigh an alumna and we cannot wait to see what other great accomplishments are ahead for her!

A Word from Fr. Chris (Continued from page 3)

contacted by Heather AnCel from the Archdiocese Planning and Construction Department. She will schedule a time to meet with you in order to review the scope installing meter(s) at your specific facility will involve.

Once the meter is installed, the new non-profit exemption application must be filed so that the parish will be billed at the reduced rate. The parish can fill out that form directly, although we can assist if needed.

Dear parishioners and friends of St. Thomas, we are urgently in need of money to install water meters as soon as yesterday. Again, I know how tough the economy is, and again I want to thank you for your continuous support. But we sincerely need to come together on this matter and save ourselves from incurring unnecessary future water

expenses. The enter process will surely cost us over thirty-five thousand dollars since we have new water bill that will be sent to us in a few days.

If you are in a position to help, do not hessite to contact me or our office and I will share with you more information about our most urgent needs. If you are not in a position to help with the Building fund at this time, perhaps you would consider increasing your tithe at this time. I am sure if everyone of us could stretch a little that would make a huge difference. Thank you and may the Lord bless you abundantly.

~Fr Chris.



Charismatic Prayer Group

The primary mission of the **Charismatic Prayer Group** is to praise and worship God, and to pray for the people of the parish. We speak to God through song and spontaneous prayer, and we listen to God through the charismatic gifts, our shared human insights, and scripture. **We invite you to pray with us every Sunday at 12:30pm** in room 110 of our School. **All are welcome!**



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OUTREACH

invites you to its

4th Annual Benefit Gala

Churches Say "No" to Domestic Violence
SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

The Diplomat West
681 W. North Avenue, Elmhurst IL

DINNER | AWARDS | SILENT AUCTION |
RAFFLES | DANCING

For more information, contact us at:
gala.acdvo@gmail.com

Congratulations!!



The list of students who earned honors in the first semester of Marist High School's 2019-2020 academic year has been released. Congratulations to **Caleb Davis** who earned the prestigious recognition of Dean's List. Students on the Dean's List have earned a GPA of 5.0 or better.

The mission of Marist High School as a Roman Catholic, coed high school, is to make Jesus Christ known and loved in the Marist Brothers' tradition, while preparing students for higher education and life.

Keep up the good work, Caleb! We're proud of you!



**The Hyde Park
Kenwood Food Pantry
needs able-bodied
volunteers** for carrying and

distributing groceries on Saturdays, 9:30am to 1:30pm. Minimum age to volunteer: 13; maximum group size: 7. We will sign paperwork for high school community service hours. To sign up or for more information, contact Jan Deckenbach, jandeckenbach@outlook.com.



Offerings for 1/26/2020

Sunday Offertory	\$4,725.62
Give Central	\$1,903.00
Building Fund	\$35.00
Hospitality (2 wks)	\$328.81
Total	\$6,821.98

	Feb 8-9	Sat. 4:00 PM	Sun. 8:30 AM	Sun. 11:00 AM
Eucharistic Ministers		Joseph Alulis (BC) Patrice Stewart (CL)	Jacqueline Callery (BC) Chudi Obiaya (CL) Kirk Willis (CR) Curtrice Scott (BL) Donald Ayers (BR) Sharon Dobbs (CL)	Gail Mercherson (BC) Wanda Castro (CL) Betty Brewer (CR) Paula Jones (BL) Villa Gordon (BR) Jacky Grimshaw (CL)
Lectors		Michael Wilson (Lector 1)	Agatha Ngwueke (Lector 1) Thomas Dousa (Lector 2)	Chris Chwedyk (Lector 1) Ifeoma Afoenyi-Onyejekwe (Lector 2)
Altar Servers		Anna Stephanov Kaylee Williams	Mary-Julie Ngwueke Kene Obiaya Kanayp Obiaya	Gwen Anderson Judith Lake Ulysses Marquez-Valerzuela
Ordinary Minister		Kurt Davis	Kurt Davis	Kurt Davis
Usher		Oscar Lanzi (1) Earl Conner (2)	Johnson Sinoiki (1) Claire Lipinski (2)	Allen Hawkins (1) Athanas Gahungu (2)

Please Remember in Prayer: Parishioners & friends who are ill:

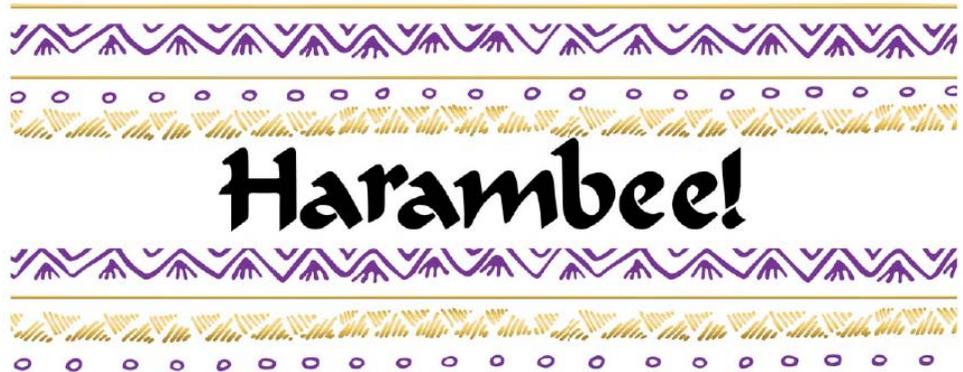
Estrella Alamar, Dorla Allen, Lucas Allen, Romulo Barreno, Dorothy Bonds, Romy Crena, Esther Dionisio, Marilyn Epps, Sebastian Farmer, Fr. Jack Farry, Joseph Foley, Joan Gallagher, Lina Garcia, David Giles, Pamela Granicz, Kathleen Holden, Julius Horvath, Wm. G. Howard, Maria Jimenez, Olga Jimenez, Carolyn Jones, Connie Jose, Charlie King, Mary Lerps, Mark Lewis, Corrine Lipinski, Linda Loggins, Ruth Magana, Mankowski Family, Maridel Moffett, Norma McCall, Anastacia I. Mebane, Clara Morgan, Chris Mureiko, Maribeth Murphy, Caridad Neal, Carmen Orendain, Edmond Peirre, Agnes Pelt, Sr. Jamie Phelps, David Nathaniel Robinson, Dick Russel, Nelson R. Sample, Elizabeth Scott, Zahari Simmons, Bobby Sims, Olustee Smith, Coletta Tinley, Charles Walker, Sr., Jo Washington, Julia Washington, Richard West, Mavis Willis, Marie Bijou Wong, Joan Yedinak

For those who have died:

Barbara O'Connor

Oreila Sykes

May God grant them eternal joy and peace.



Celebrating 30 years of the Augustus Tolton Pastoral Ministry Program

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, March 7, 2020

Noon - 4:00 PM

honoring

Rev. Donald Senior, CP

President Emeritus, Catholic Theological Union

Dr. Opal Easter-Smith

Retired, Director of Continuing Education, Catholic Theological Union

Bishop Joseph N. Perry

Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Chicago

The James and Catherine Denny Center

at Catholic Theological Union

5416 South Cornell Avenue | Chicago

Complimentary parking available in the CTU garage.

For tickets, visit <https://ctu.edu/event/harambee20/>

ATTN All Volunteers: Virtus Class Offered at Calvert House



A VIRTUS class will be available at Calvert House this week on Wednesday, February 5, 2020

Virtus is the Archdiocesan class on protection of children and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse, required of all parish staff and regular volunteers. **Protecting God's Children® for Adults** is training conducted by VIRTUS® certified facilitators on the prevention of child sexual abuse. The training makes participants aware of the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five easy steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse. Two videos are the centerpiece of the training: **A Time to Protect God's Children™** and **A Plan to Protect God's**

Children™. The facilitators incorporate policies and procedures into the training defining child sexual abuse, addressing the reporting of child sexual abuse, the screening and selection of employees and volunteers, and victim advocacy.

This is a great opportunity for all parish volunteers to take the class at a convenient location in Hyde Park. To sign up go to www.archchicago.org. Then click on child and youth protection. Next, click on compliance resources and check on Virtus under training.

Date ; Wednesday Feb. 5, 2020

Time : 6:30pm

Location: Calvert House
5735 S. University Ave

EXPLORING THE DIACONATE

The Institute for Diaconal Studies will host a series of Exploring the Diaconate sessions for men seeking information on becoming a deacon. Husbands and wives are invited to come and learn about the discernment process and the formation program aspirants and candidates pursue.

All are welcome to attend any of the sessions. To RSVP, contact Sister Caroline Onuoha, DMMM, at (847) 837-4563 or conuoha@usml.edu. Application deadline for the 2020–21 Aspirancy Path is June 1, 2020.

Vicariate VI

April 29, 7:30 p.m.

St. Thomas the Apostle

5472 South Kimbark Avenue, Chicago

Join Us on Our STA Holy Land Tour

Before our former pastor Fr Elias retired, he had begun to organize parishioners for a second pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Due to a few challenges, Fr Elias was unable to complete these plans to visit Holy Land.

Some parishioners have kept this dream alive and they would be very proud to make the dream come true. I know Fr Elias will be very proud if we make this dream come true.

To help this dream come true to, we have organized a pilgrimage committee that has come up with the following proposal:

“St Thomas the Apostle is planning a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Honor of our former Pastor Fr Elias on September 14th to September 24th 2020.” With this pilgrimage we will have the opportunity to further our knowledge of the life and passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Registration for the Pilgrimage starts in this Month of January. No payments will be due until the month of March.



The following is the breakdown of the land tour:

10 to 11 passengers: \$3,772

13 to 15 passengers: \$3,522

16 to 18 passengers: \$3,442

19 to 21 passengers: \$3,322

The more people we get the lower the payments will be.

The following will be the major areas to be visited: Cana, Nazareth, Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho, the Dead Sea, the Mount of

Olives, Mount Zion, the Passion of Jesus (last hour), and Samaria/ Jordan.

Please pray about it and if God is calling you to experience his divine love through a pilgrimage this year, register in our parish office anytime.

You may email Teresa Vazques who is in charge of the pilgrimage group at the following email: tervazma@aol.com.

Or Call Fr Chris during parish office hours.

We will be posting more information in the bulletin.

~Fr Chris