

Whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

GOD'S PEOPLE IN EXTRAORDINARY VARIETY

September 3, 2023

www.stapostleparish.org

Welcome!

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, please call or email our parish office.



FROM THE Pastor's Desk.

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Thomas the Apostle,

Good news to share! I met with the contractors and the church is (mostly) finished. We'll be back in very shortly. Some small details need to be finished which will take place during the week when the church is not occupied.

Check your email and our social media accounts for details about our return to church.

I've been thinking and praying about our time in the gym and the graces around that experience as we prepare to return to the church. I'm penning a longer piece of some reflections – it'll be in an upcoming bulletin.

In all things, may God bless our parish.

Sincerely in Christ, Fr. Trail





TODAY'S READINGS: TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 20:7-9 ◆ Psalm 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 ◆ Romans 12:1-2 ◆ Matthew 16:21-27

Nigel Vazquez, PDanny Soriano

Portuguez, PDanny 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: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Ezekiel 33:7-9 ◆ Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 ◆ Romans 13:8-10 ◆ Matthew 18:15-20

DAILY READINGS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Weekday Masses are at 8am on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday. On Tuesdays, Mass is at 8:30am.

*Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.

MONDAY, September 4

1 Thes 4:13-18 | Ps 96:1 & 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13 | Lk 4:16-30 Thomas Levergood

TUESDAY, September 5

1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11 | Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 | Lk 4:31-37

**Karen Joy Gill

WEDNESDAY, September 6

THURSDAY, September 7

FRIDAY, September 8

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30 | Ps 13:6ab, 6c | Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 Tyrone Alexander (s.i.), †Dr. Herman Neal

SATURDAY, September 9

MEMORIAL OF ST. PETER CLAVER, PRIEST Col 1:21-23 | Ps 54:3-4, 6 & 8 | Lk 6:1-5 #Julius Horvath



Worship

Unity of Posture in the Body of Christ

by Timothy A. Johnston Pastoral Associate

PART I

Q. Why aren't we kneeling during the Eucharistic Prayer while we are celebrating Mass in the gym?

I was recently asked this question by a younger member of our parish. Although our time in the gym is quickly coming to an end (Praise be to God!), I thought it might be helpful to break open this great question for everyone.

As a general rule, in the Dioceses of the United States, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM)*, the front matter of the Missal that directs how Mass is celebrated, is clear that the assembly:

should kneel beginning after the singing or recitation of the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) until after the Amen of the Eucharistic Prayer, except when prevented on occasion by ill health, or for reasons of lack of space, of the large number of people present, or for another reasonable cause. (GIRM, 43)

So, the norm is to kneel in the United States, except when occasion, environment, health, etc. prevent it or make it unreasonable. I make this distinction regarding the US because the original Latin text of the GIRM following the Second Vatican Council restored the ancient practice of standing. Rome then permitted each conference of bishops to formulate their own norms and implement them within their ecclessial territory. On top of that, each local bishop has the jurisdiction to implement his own norms in this matter, which is why if you're traveling you may encounter different practices. In general, the US bishops decided to retain kneeling, while in other parts of the world, standing remains the norm, with the assembly kneeling or genuflecting only during the Institution Narrative.

The first weekend in the gym, I offered some remarks before each Mass, which explained, albeit briefly, the decision for the assembly to remain standing during the Eucharistic Prayer. Taking our cue from the Church's law quoted above, we made a pastoral judgment to suit our temporary circumstances, especially since there are no kneelers and the seating is cramped. But this pastoral judgment is rooted in both historical precedent and an underlying principle found in the GIRM and therefore, the Church's liturgy.

In next week's bulletin, I continue to offer insight on this question.



RECEIVE COMMUNION

At home, in a hospital, or nursing home

If you or a loved one are ill or homebound and unable to attend Mass, Ministers of Care are available to bring Holy Communion to your home, the hospital, or senior facility. The Ministers of Care are fully vaccinated, will wear a mask, and practice other safety measures. We ask that others present also wear a mask. To schedule a visit, call Lisa in the parish office at 773–324–2626.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS AVAILABLE

Celiac disease is an inherited autoimmune disease that affects over 3 million people in the United States, or 1 in every 133 people. We use low-gluten hosts prepared by the Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. These hosts have a gluten content between .007% and .014% as of testing in March, 2022; these are approved for sacramental use by the USCCB and meet the requirements of canon 924. If you need to receive a low-gluten host, please check-in with the priest or sacristan before Mass.



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION MONTHLY THEME: ENCOUNTERING THE REAL PRESENCE OF CHRIST

In recognizing and encountering Christ in our liturgy, we are also challenged to recognize Christ in the people who surround us in our neighborhood, our workplace, and our parish. Scripture tells us that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18: 20) and "do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God" (1 Corinthians 6: 19). In both these passages, we are reminded that Christ dwells within us by virtue of our baptism. As you reflect this week, consider the ways that you are able to recognize Christ dwelling within you and those whom you encounter. How do you acknowledge and respond to Christ's presence?



Image by Nino Souza Nino from Pixabay



BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS

Do you have an infant or toddler who is in need of the sacrament of baptism? Are you expecting a child?

Our next baptism preparation course is being held on Sunday, September 17 and 24, 2023 following the 10AM Mass. Parents who are seeking the sacrament of baptism for their children are asked to attend this two-session course to deepen their understanding of the sacrament and prepare to celebrate it. The preparation course may be taken while you are expecting your child or after your child has been born.

To register for the upcoming course, please email Rosina Hendrickson at rhendrickson@stapostleparish.org.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Come, Follow Me.



"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

(Matthew 16:24)

Jeremiah 20: 7-9 - Jeremiah's interior crisis Romans 12: 1-2 - Sacrifice of body and mind Matthew 16: 21-27 - First prophecy of passion and resurrection; doctrine of the cross

ADULTS: In what concrete ways do you take up your cross and follow Jesus?

CHILDREN: When has it been difficult to be a follower of Jesus?





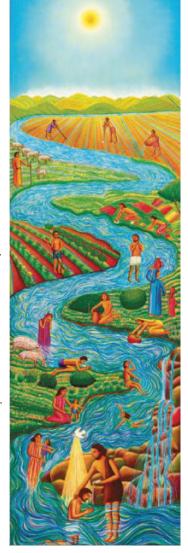
Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River

The Season of Creation is celebrated each year from September 1, the World day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, through October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. The Season of Creation is a time of grace that the Church, in ecumenical dialogue, offers to humanity to renew its relationship with the Creator and with creation, through celebration, conversion and commitment together. During this season, Pope Francis invites us to reflect deeply on the beauty of God's Creation, to become more aware of the issues facing creation, and to increase our actions to protect it. This year's theme is "**Let Justice and Peace Flow**," challenging us to recognize how when we "maintain a right relationship with God, humanity and nature, then justice and peace can flow ... nourishing humanity and all creatures" (Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation).

Connection to Today's Scripture: The Scriptures on this first Sunday within the Season of Creation call the human family to challenge the injustices creating the ecological crisis threatening life on Earth by proclaiming the burning prophetic word of God for these times. Jesus challenges his disciples to think as God thinks, face the suffering before us, and take up our cross to follow him.



Praying at Home:

- ♦ Sing: *Litany of the Earth* by Barbara Bridge, available at https://youtu.be/jlWIthGJdok
- ♦ Read: Genesis 1:1–2:3, the story of creation
- ♦ Ponder the Word: What words, phrases, or images stir your heart from this reading? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal what you are to learn and enact from this prayer.

How can we contribute to the mighty river of justice and peace in this Season of Creation? What can we, particularly as Christian communities, do to heal our common home so that it can once again teem with life? We must do this by resolving to **transform** our *hearts*, our *lifestyles*, and the *public policies* ruling our societies."

~POPE FRANCIS



COMMUNION WITH THE SAINTS

St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church Memorial, September 3

The man who would become Pope St. Gregory the Great was born to noble parents in AD 540. Raised in privilege, he was well educated and established himself within Roman society during his early years. By his early thirties, he was serving as the Prefect of Rome. Despite this honorable position, he was also a prayerful and faithful young man, who was devoted to God. Leaving his prestigious life, he entered the monastic life, most likely following the Rule of St. Benedict, transforming his family home into the monastery of St. Andrew, and establishing monasteries on other family properties. Although he desired to live a life of quiet contemplation, he was called upon to serve as a deacon of Rome, abbot of his community, and the chief advisor and secretary to Pope Pelagius II.



On September 3, 590, he succeeded Pope Pelagius II as the leader of the Church. Having taken the name Gregory, he began to minister with an eve towards the good, the true, and the beautiful. Known particularly f o r h i s contributions to the Church's liturgy,

Gregory also undertook reforms of Church discipline, wrote a text on the duties of the bishop, promoted the monastic life, strengthened missionary activity, fought heresy, and dealt with the results of barbarian invasions. He was a preacher, teacher, and writer. The breadth of his

work led him to be named a Doctor of the Church.

Gregory issued a call for the promotion of beauty in the liturgy. He expanded the use of the "Alleluia" to all liturgical seasons, except Advent and Lent, and promoted its singing. He fixed the time in the liturgy when the "Our Father" is prayed, wrote prayers that became a part of the Gregorian Missal, and added a petition to the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). While he may not have been the creator of "Gregorian Chant," his name is associated with this widely used chant form within the Latin Church.

A portion of Gregory's work was to compile and consolidate the writings and teachings of the Fathers of the Church with respect to Sacred Scripture. He promoted the faithful's study of Scripture and its use in the liturgy. He indicated that one should "study ... and daily meditate on the words of your Creator; learn the heart of God in the words of God, that you may sigh more ardently or the things that are eternal, that your soul may be kindled with greater longings for heavenly joy. ... May Almighty God ... fill your soul with His presence, and in filling it, compose it" (Gregory the Great, Book IV, Letter XXXI).

Each of these reforms of the liturgy came because of Gregory's deep pastoral heart. His pastoral heart is illustrated very clearly in his encounter with one of the women who prepared the hosts that were consecrated during Mass. One day during Mass, when he presented the Body of Christ to her, she merely smiled at him. Gregory paused, replaced the sacrament on the altar and asked her why she was smiling. She responded that she knew that this bread was the bread she had made with her own hands, yet Gregory persisted in calling it the Body of Christ. He listened attentively, then paused and invited the entire congregation to pray. The prayer he offered was for God to show his grace upon those gathered so that they might be confirmed in their belief that the eucharist is truly the Body of Christ. Upon rising from prayer, the host which had been placed upon the altar appeared

(Cont'd on next page.)

as a piece of human flesh the size of a little finger. Shortly thereafter, following prayers of thanksgiving, the flesh returned to the appearance of bread. Gregory again offered the Body of Christ to the woman, and she received it. Her faith, and that of the entire community, was strengthened that day.

Gregory never really rested during his papacy, even as suffered ill-health, including indigestion, slow fever, and gout. He constantly worked to strengthen the Church and encourage the faith of the people. Upon his death in AD 604, he left a legacy of a papacy that offered stability through the tumultuous years of the seventh and eighth centuries.

Rosina Hendrickson,

Coordinator of Family Faith Formation

Sources:

Huddleston, G. (1909). Pope St. Gregory I ("the Great"). In <u>The Catholic Encyclopedia</u>. New York: Robert Appleton Company. Retrieved August 27, 2023, from New Advent: http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/06780a.htm

St. Gregory the Great. The Association for Catechumenal Ministry.

St. Gregory the Great. "Epistle XXXI". In *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church*, *Second Series*, *Volume XII*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, s.d.

The Life of S. Gregory. In *The Golden Legend or Lives of the Saints*. Compiled by Jacobus de Voragine, Archbishop of Genoa, 1275. First Edition Published 1470. English by William Caxton, First Edition 1483, Edited by F.S. Ellis, Temple Classics, 1900 (Reprinted 1922, 1931.)

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

parishioners and friends who are ill:

Dorla Allen, Lucas Allen, Rita Allen, Alexandria Banks, Janet Banks, Romulo Barreno, Betty Black, Dorothy Bonds, Bradford family, Diane Clarke, Emil F. Coccaro, Thomas & Carol Cole, Patricia Comeaux, Romy Crena, Esther Dionisio, Sr., Jean Douglas-Washington, Sheldon Dugan, Barbara Dunn, Pat & Dick English, Marilyn Epps, Joan Gallagher, Lina Garcia, David Giles, Pamela Graniczy, Albert Hines, Kathleen Holden, Maria Jimenez, Olga Jimenez, Carolyn Jones, Connie Jose, Terri Kilbane, Charlie King, Carol Landrum, Mary Lerps, Corrine Lipinski, Linda Loggins, Mankowski Family, Anastacia I. Mebane, Clara Morgan, Caridad Neal, Fr. Leonidas Nishemezewe, Carmen Orendain, Edmond Peirre, Agnes Pelt, David Nathaniel Robinson, Dick Russel, Nelson R. Sample, Justina Sentino, Zahari Simmons, Bobby Sims, Olustee Smith, Ernest Talbott, Sheree Tilford, Ed Vaughn, Charles Walker, Sr., Jo Washington, Julia Washington, Terrance Watson, Richard West, Mavis Willis, Marie Bijou Wong, Joan Yedinak

For those who have died.

May God grant them eternal joy & peace.

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



NEWS

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Congratulations to all of the couples celebrating 50 years of marriage this year! The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass is scheduled to be held Sunday, September 17, 2023 at 2:30 p.m. at Holy Name Cathedral, 735 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60654. Please register by September 15, 2023 at https://pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding.



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE School

First Two Weeks of School-Welcome Back!



St. Thomas the Apostle Faculty and Staff 2023-2024

Mr. Ken Koll– Principal
Mr. Robert Turner– Assistant Principal
Mrs. Laura Cline- Pre-K Teacher
Ms. Jessica Leon- Pre-K Teacher
Ms. Annie Bryant- Pre-K Assistant
Mrs. Faith Jones– Kindergarten Teacher
Ms. Jackie Elms– Kindergarten Assistant
Mrs. Scheree Issa– 1st Grade Teacher
Mrs. Terri Sosa– 2nd Grade Teacher
Mrs. Susie Malnar– 3rd Grade Teacher
Mrs. Nita Collins– 4th Grade Teacher
Ms. Liana Vantrease– 5th Grade Teacher

Mrs. Sheena Pierce–6th Grade Homeroom / Middle School Language Arts Ms. Sidney Kenney–7th Grade Homeroom / Middle School Science Ms. Xanthoula Melachrinidis–8th Grade Homeroom / Middle School Mathematics

Mr. Willie Jones–Music Teacher
Ms. Mari Carrillo– Spanish Teacher
Ms. Bana Robeieh– Art Teacher
Ms. Kim Blanchard– Title 1 Teacher
Ms. Raquel Irvin– Administrative Assistant
Ms. Jasmine Keith– Office Manager
Mr. Jonathan Mitchell– Security Officer
Mr. Maurice Hayes– Maintenance

We are so grateful for the support of St. Thomas the Apostle parishioners!

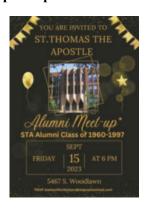
STA Alumni Meet-UP

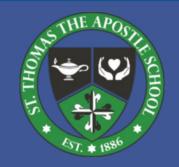
STA Alumni Classes of 1960-1997

Friday, September 15, 2023 6pm 5467 S. Woodlawn

Register today!







Dates to Remember

Monday, 9/4 No School– Labor Day

STA Website

www.stapostleschool.com



Facebook: @stapostleschool Instagram: @stthomasapostle

Are you interested in STA for your PK-8th grade student? Contact the office to schedule a tour today!

(773) 667-1142

Serving God's children in extraordinary variety!



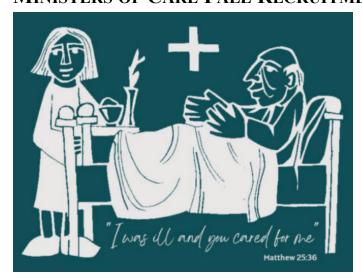
PARISH CREATION CARE COMMITTEE

The Archdiocese of Chicago encourages each parish "to form integral Creation Care Committees that reflect the teachings of *Laudato Si*' and here at St. Thomas, we'd like to explore this possibility. We want to learn who within our community would be interested in such an initiative that would help the parish bring to life the Church's principles of synodality, solidarity, and subsidiarity. Caring for all of God's creation is a fruitful avenue for bringing new life across the generations as we find ways to renew our Church together. If you are passionate about the intersectionality of Care for Creation/Environmental Issues and the Church's social doctrine and responsibilities, then please contact Timothy Johnston at tjohnston@stapostleparish.org.



Art by Dana Gray

MINISTERS OF CARE FALL RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING



If you are compassionate, prayerful, attentive to others, and yearning to serve the parish and Church in a more profound way, come explore becoming a Minister of Care here at St. Thomas the Apostle. Ministers of Care, using the Church's rites for visiting the sick and homebound, bring Holy Communion to, pray with, and offer a compassionate presence to patients at UC Hospitals, residents at Montgomery Place, and our homebound parishioners. We greatly need new/additional ministers to assist with this wonderful and necessary ministry. Our parish has a rich tradition of having a strong presence to those who are sick and homebound.

Training begins on <u>September 30</u> with a self-study portion (in-home), which is followed by an in-person session on

Saturday, October 7 from 9AM to 1:30PM in the parish hall.

For more information and to register, please contact the parish office at 773.324.2626 or email parishoffice@stapostleparish.org.





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Calling all MEN of the Parish!

We invite you to join the St. Thomas the Apostle Knights of Columbus.

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic organization for men who are committed to the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity and Patriotism. Founded in 1887 by Father Michael J. McGivney to help provide financial aid to Catholic families, the Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic fraternal and humanitarian organization ever created.

Please contact Allen Hawkins, 630-945-4133, for more details.



Cover image: Gerd Altmann, Pixabay.

OFFERTORY

August 26-27, 2023

Offertory \$3,234.60 Give Central \$3,072.00 Building Fund \$185.00 Mass Offerings \$30.00 Total

Funds needed weekly to sustain our parish: \$10,500.

Thank you!

Your generosity is essential to the life of our parish family.

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ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

General Information

Church Address 5472 S. Kimbark Avenue Chicago, IL 60615-5297

Parish Offices

Hours: 7am-3:30pm, Monday-Thursday [Office closed Fridays during Summer] Located in the school building. Phone: (773) 324-2626 Fax: (773) 891-0602

www.stapostleparish.org parishoffice@stapostleparish.org

CLERGY

Fr. Michael K. Trail, pastor frmtrail@stapostleparish.org, ext. 107

Religious Orders Assisting at St. Thomas

The Franciscans
The Jesuits
The Passionists

Bishop Joseph N. Perry, in residence

PASTORAL STAFF

Timothy Johnston, *pastoral associate* tjohnston@stapostleparish.org

Matthew Merz, coordinator of music ministry mmerz@stapostleparish.org

Rosina Hendrickson

coordinator of family faith formation rhendrickson@stapostleparish.org

Ken Koll, school principal kkoll@stapostleschool.com

PARISH STAFF

Lisa J. Couch, Parish Secretary parishoffice@stapostleparish.org, ext. 100 during office hours or ext. 0 to leave a voicemail message

Paula Jones, Director of Parish Operations, ext. 109

Lissa Romell, Bulletin Editor

School Address 5467 S. Woodlawn Avenue Chicago, IL 60615-5299

School Offices

Hours: 7:30am-3:45pm, Monday-Friday Phone: (773) 667-1142

www.stapostleschool.com admissions@stapostleschool.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Monday: 8:00 AM Tuesday: 8:30 AM

Wednesday, Thursday,

and Friday: 8:00 AM
Saturday: 4:00 PM VIGIL
Holy Days: 8:00 AM

Confession: Sundays, 9:00–9:45 AM

Saturdays,, 2:30–3:30 PM

or by appointment

BAPTISM: Visit our website for additional information or contact Rosina Hendrickson at rhendrickson@stapostleparish.org.

MARRIAGE OR MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Contact Fr. Michael Trail at least six months before your wedding date.

TO SCHEDULE A FUNERAL: Email the parish secretary, Lisa Couch or call 773–324–2626

Interested in Joining the Parish as a Member? Contact the parish secretary, Lisa Couch or visit our website for the registration form.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OR BECOMING CATHOLIC? Contact Rosina Hendrickson at rhendrickson@stapostleparish.org

ANY SCHOOL RELATED MATTERS OR INTERESTED IN HAVING YOUR CHILD ENROLLED ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL? Email admissions@stapostleschool.com

IN NEED OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE?

St. Vincent de Paul Society is available to help. Call the parish office at 773–324–2626 and dial ext. 108. Please leave your name, phone number, and state your need and someone will return your call.



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