



GOD'S PEOPLE IN EXTRAORDINARY VARIETY

September 10, 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.



Dear Friends and Parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle,

I've been praying and reflecting about our experience of praying in the gym for the summer while we had to vacate the church to make space for the renovation of the floor.

As I've mentioned to you in previous letters to you, I was very nervous about us going into a new space. I was nervous because it was different from our normal routine. I was nervous that people wouldn't like it, that our collections would go down, and that I made the wrong choice and should have kept us in the church while the construction was taking place like what happened when the floor was replaced last time.

In spite of my own feelings, I really do believe that our time in the gym was a grace-filled time for us as the parish. A couple of themes stick out to me:

The closeness of the community was fostered where all are welcome

Many of you commented to me that it was nice to be able to see each other's faces during the Mass. I hope that it brought our parishioners closer together and while you may still not know their name, you can now recognize them more easily.

An encouragement that warmed my heart was to see how many of you sat next to people you wouldn't normally.

Church is one of the few places where everyone has an equal seat regardless of status: Young singles sit next to elderly widows; families with five children sit next to couples who never had children; those with doctorate degrees sit next to someone who struggled with traditional education systems; people who have it "figured out" next to people who are still trying to figure it out; a myriad of different personalities all side-by-side.

From my vantage point I know where most of you sit when you're in church and I was beginning to see where you all normally sat in the gym. The difference in the gym

was that you were forced, due to space constraints, to sit next to someone that you wouldn't otherwise interact with. I think this did something to our community in the sense that it caused us to see more of each other and to be much more charitable to one another.

One Sunday morning while another priest was saying Mass, I happened to walk down the hallway and a mother and very young child were doing laps up and down the hallway. The mom and I connected our glance and we both smirked and shook our heads as if to say, "we can clearly see this kid is in charge." I kept walking to my office to work on some emails until it was time to greet the congregation coming out of Mass, but I couldn't help but think of the sacrifice, commitment, and joy of that mom who got up on a Sunday morning to bring her kid to church. Even if she wasn't physically in the gym she was just as present as someone sitting in the front row.

It's easy in church when the person two rows behind you is irritating you and distracting you from *your* prayer, but sitting so close to each other, I think, made you all more charitable to one another and forgiving.

A community of faith is patient with one another just as a family is patient with one another.

An intimacy of communal prayer

Many of you have commented to me that your own prayer around the Mass has grown and deepened because of how "close we were to the action".

Some of you commented to me that you listened to the prayers of the Mass more intently, noticed the actions of the priest and how he leads prayer with a more keen eye, listened to scripture more intently and understood at a deep level how the Mass is the prayer of the Church and that it is inherently *communal*.

I was particularly struck by this when those with young children sat near the front. I could see from my vantage point how many of the children would pay attention and how parents would model prayer for their children.

Don't get me wrong, I still saw squirming kids, parents negotiating with children, and the iPad, phone, book, or snack to calm the restless child but all of that is okay. It's okay because by being near the front, the children can see and take in all of the beauty of the liturgy and the action of the church at prayer.

My hope is that now that we are back in church our children will still be in front to take in all the action and that you'll listen with the same intention and intensity as you did while in the gym.

As grace-filled as these things were, there were still some things I missed about praying in our church.

I missed how well we sang. I'm not sure if it was the acoustics in church or the support of the organ, but from where I sat I really felt like we were going to shake down the house when we really belted out a song we knew. Don't get me wrong, I could hear you in the gym, but it didn't sound the same.

I commented this to one parishioner and she mentioned to me, "I was more likely to sing in church because I didn't sit so close to a stranger who could hear my off key singing." Why worry about such things? None of us are perfect singers, but it's about singing together for the

praise of God. God, and your neighbor, don't care if you can't hit that high note, reach for it anyway because it's for the Lord. I hope we can return to full-gusto singing when we get back to the church. I love singing and I love singing with you to praise God.

I missed praying in a space that is artistically beautiful. As wonderful as it was for our community to look at ourselves in a new way while we were in the gym, I did miss how the beauty of the architecture enhanced our worship. In our Catholic theology, buildings are important because space and art can draw us into something deeper than ourselves and get us outside of our daily life. Additionally, any church building provides an opportunity to use the artwork and layout of the church as a catechetical (teaching) tool to help us understand more the mysteries of our faith.

Timothy and I often talk about the importance of signs, smells, and symbols when we talk about the liturgy. The church building offers a way for us to experience the various signs, smells, and symbols of our faith which can

help us be more attune to the signs, smells, and symbols of God outside of the church as we go about our daily life.

I also missed the extra devotional life that was fostered in the church: lighting of the devotional candles, the extra time spent in prayer, saying a rosary before Mass, all of those little things that happened in our church that got lost due to the set up of the gym. I pray those devotionals come back to our community.

At the end of the day...

I'm glad we were in the gym. It did something positive for us as a whole and I hope we take those good things with us as we go back home to our church. I hope we bring with us the communal spirit, the intensity of listening to the word of God and the prayers of the Mass, and I pray we are charitable to one another as we build up the kingdom of God together in our home.

In all things, may God bless our parish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Trail



from incandescent to LED. These bulbs are brighter, more

efficient, will last longer, and will reduce our electric bill.





TODAY'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

†Milisits Ferencné, Williams Family (s.i.)

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-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 27:30—28:7 ♦ Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 ♦ Romans 14:7-9 ♦ Matthew 18:21-35

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 11

Col 1:24—2:3 | Ps 62:6-7, 9 | Lk 6:6-11 Rod Winfrey (BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!)

TUESDAY, September 12

Col 2:6-15 | Ps 145:1b-2, 8-9, 10-11 | Lk 6:12-19 Ronald Spencer (SPEEDY RECOVERY)

WEDNESDAY, September 13

MEMORIAL OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM Col 3:1-11 | Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab | Lk 6:20-26 **♣Tom Bacik**

THURSDAY, September 14

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

Nm 21:4b-9 | Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 | Phil 2:6-11 | Jn 3:13-17 **PDr. Herman Neal**

FRIDAY, September 15

MEMORIAL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS
1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14 | Ps 16:1b-2a & 5, 7-8, 11 | Jn 19:25-27

**Kenneth Trail

SATURDAY, September 16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

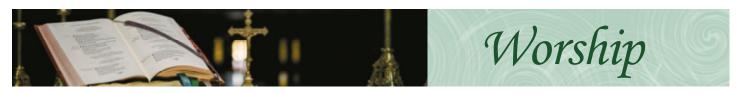
parishioners and friends who are ill:

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, 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:

Corrine Lipinski, mother of Mark Lipinski Thomas Boodell, husband of Beata Boodell

May God grant them eternal joy & peace.



Unity of Posture in the Body of Christ

by Timothy A. Johnston Pastoral Associate

PART II

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

In last week's bulletin, I began answering this question so be sure to read Part I. I ended last week saying, "But this pastoral judgment is rooted in both historical precedent and an underlying principle found in the GIRM and therefore, the Church's liturgy" and that's what I hope to address in Parts II and III. But, I feel some general foundations need to be set.

Communal Choreography

Let's begin with a brief introduction of a theology of embodied prayer. Liturgical scholar and my liturgy professor, the late Kevin Seazoltz, OSB, was famous for saying in all his classes, "We are body persons" when he spoke about praying the liturgy. What he was trying to get us to recall was that because of the incarnation, Godbecoming-human, we pray fully with our senses; we embody our prayer—it's incarnated. We encounter the living God—express our love and praise for God—through our body. John Leonard and Nathan Mitchel note:

"[T]he body is the real "symbol" of the soul, so physical gestures are the real symbols of those attitudes that flow from a human being's soul. Only by being expressed in bodily gestures do those attitudes truly *come into being* . . . *Gestures incarnate inventions*.

(John K. Leonard and Nathan D. Michell, *The Posture of the Assembly During the Eucharistic Prayer (Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1994), 315–16.*)

Consider how you express love to a spouse or children. This is a gesture that expresses the inner reality—maybe giving flowers, a hug or kiss, or preparing a meal. The liturgical act includes words, gestures, postures, and rituals and all of these help us communicate or express our desire to be in communion with God, our desire to offer God

praise, and our desire to receive God's love and share in God's life. Jesuit priest John Baldovin, captures Seastolz's thoughts saying:

One of the (many) functions that rituals...perform is to help a group of people experience solidarity, identity and common purpose. And the very reason they need ritual is to express that identity *bodily and communally*.

(Leonard and Michell, *The Posture of the Assembly During the Eucharistic Prayer*, 3.)

Let's consider then the first ritual act of the liturgy: the Gathering Procession (our assembling). It is in this action, as we all lift our voices in song, that we are made into the Body of Christ and united in one heart and mind (See Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship, no. 142). While I enter the worship space as Timothy, and retain that identity throughout Mass, there is a change when this song begins. I am now united to each of you in this public act of worship. My personal or private prayer is consumed by the Church's prayer; my personal piety and devotion must recede into the background so that the assembly's communal prayer, the Church's prayer- through word, posture, gesture, and sacrament-takes priority. I cannot stress this enough! The liturgy is not a time for private prayer. For the Church's prayer, the liturgy, is truly the font and source of all life (See the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, no. 10).

What we do in the liturgy is pray to God as the sacramental presence of Jesus—his mystical Body, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Simply, it is Christ himself who prays the liturgy and because of baptism, each of us (as priest, prophet, and king) united in one join Christ in his prayer to the Father. The unifying act of singing and gathering is to remind us that we come to be joined as one and to pray as one Body. We pray with a common choreography throughout the liturgy, from the gathering song, to the Sign of the Cross, all the way to the Dismissal.

Part III continues in next week's bulletin.



Worship

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.



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.

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.





FAMILY FAITH FORMATION MONTHLY THEME: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

During this Season of Creation, Family Faith Formation is considering the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Care for God's Creation. As we learn in Genesis 1-3, God created the earth, filled it, and gave human beings the responsibility of caring for it. We show our respect and care for God by caring for creation, in all its forms. We are called to protect people, animals, and the environment, applying the principles of our faith to the world around us.

In 2021, the Vatican launched the **Laudato Sí Action Platform** (LSAP) designed to call all parts of the global Catholic community — from families to parishes to businesses, schools, healthcare institutions, religious communities, and more — into extensive coordinated action over many years to address the complex socio-ecological crisis facing Earth at this time and to restore reverent respect and care for the sacredness of creation. [https://laudatosiactionplatform.org/]





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

Helping Others Grow



"Jesus said, 'If another member of the church sins agaist you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone."

(Matthew 18:15)

Ezekiel 33: 7-9 - The prophet a watchman Romans 13: 8-10 - Love fulfills the Law Matthew 18: 15-20 - Fraternal correction

ADULTS: How have you been able to follow Christ more closely because others patiently loved you?

CHILDREN: How can you help another person do the right thing?





Let Justice and Peace Flow

Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River

Connection to Today's Scripture: The Scriptures on this Second Sunday within the Season of Creation challenge Christians to take up the prophetic responsibility in love to invite each other gently and prayerfully to conversion and care for creation in these times of ecological crisis.

Praying at Home:

- ♦ Sing: Litany of the Earth by Barbara Bridge (https://youtu.be/ilWIthGJdok)
- Read: Psalm 104; a hymn praising God the Creator
- 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.

Holy Spirit of God, you are at work in us and among us making us more conscious of the sacredness of all creation, raising up global movements in these times to care for Earth and each other. **Wisdom of God, have mercy.**

In the first reading, Ezekiel describes God's warning to himself and to us: we are responsible for each other. If we hear and fail to relay God's Word, God's call to conversion to those for whom it is intended, we will be held responsible and complicit in their sin and in the suffering and punishment it brings.

One of Pope Francis's central beliefs at the heart of *Laudato Si* is that everything and everyone is connected, interdependent. We are responsible for each other. God speaks to us and calls us to conversion in many ways. In the context of the Season of Creation, we need to listen to that Word of God in "the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor." (L.S. 49, https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclicalaudato-si.html)

The cry of the Earth, heard in increasingly powerful storms and fires, melting ice and rising sea levels, heat waves, droughts and floods, pollution of air and water, loss of rich biodiversity and ecological degradation. The cry of the poor, heard and seen in widespread hunger and malnutrition, in homelessness and ill health, exploitation and vast migration and refugee flows, violence and ecological destruction of the most marginal regions where the poor are so often forced to struggle for survival.

What is the conversion in ways of thinking, acting, and living together on Earth that God is calling us to? What are the changes in lifestyle and relationships with each other and with creation?

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE School

8th Grade Leaders Set Goals for the Year



Teachers and students have been hard at work during the first month of school setting goals for the upcoming school year. The eighth grade class, led by homeroom teacher Mrs. Melachrinidis, discussed setting goals and created Goals Crosses that would be on display. This will help these young leaders continue to make strides as they begin their last year at STA.

From our oldest scholars to our youngest ones, check out some snapshots of our Pre-K students in action, led by Mrs. Cline, Ms. Leon and Ms. Bryant.



They have been settling into their daily routine, while getting lots of time to enjoy the beautiful weather while playing in our amazing playground space. We can't wait to see how our students will learn and grow in the 2023-2024 school year.

STA Alumni Meet-Up

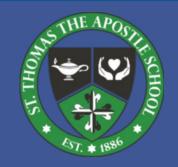
STA Alumni Classes of 1960-1997

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

Register today!







Dates to Remember

Friday, 9/15 Picture Day at STA Alumni Meet-Up

Friday, 9/22 No School—Teacher Inservice

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!

Stewardship Sharing our gifts

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



https://bit.ly/stafallbakesale

christmasmarket@stapostleparish.org

or email questions to us at

OFFERTORY

September 2-3, 2023

 Offertory
 \$6,066.00

 Give Central
 \$5,220.00

 Chandelier donations
 \$1,050.00

 Building fund
 \$325.00

 Mass offerings
 \$70.00

 School support
 \$50.00

 Total
 \$12,781.00



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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-Friday

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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