

St. Thomas the Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL



December 10, 2023

GOD'S PEOPLE IN EXTRAORDINARY VARIETY

www.stapostleparish.org

Bulletin Image: www.unsplash.com

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

MASS FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 24 | 9:00 a.m.

Please note there is no 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. Mass today.

MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (CHRISTMAS EVE)

Sunday, December 24 | 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

MASS FOR SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD (CHRISTMAS DAY)

Monday, December 25 | 9:00 a.m.

MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday, December 31 | 4:00 p.m.

Monday, January 1 | 9:00 a.m. (no 8:00 a.m. Mass)

MASS FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Saturday, January 06 | 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 07 | 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

MASS FOR THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Monday, January 8 | 8:00 a.m.

Final day of Christmas and the beginning of Winter Ordinary Time

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

Rosina B.F. Hendrickson

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Thomas the Apostle,

In the *Order of Baptism of Children*, when the children are anointed after baptism, we hear the words “Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ ... now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that you may remain members of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King, unto eternal life” (62). In the blessing of fathers at the conclusion of the rite, the priest prays “May the Lord God Almighty, ... bless the fathers of these children, so that, together with their wives, they may, by word and example, prove to be the first witnesses of the faith to their children, in Christ Jesus our Lord” (70).

These two prayers form the basis of our Family Faith Formation process here at St. Thomas the Apostle. For the past three years, we have taken a whole family approach to formation, gathering parents and children once a month for a session devoted to prayer, encountering God, and learning about the Catholic faith through presentation, story, and activities. We also take time for fellowship as we share a meal together.

While this model of formation is new to many, it invites families to grow in faith together and discover ways to live their faith in their daily life. The baptismal call to be priest, prophet, and king, invites us to be Christ's witnesses in the world, in our work, school, and play. In order to be Christ's witnesses, we must come to know Christ and his teachings. As we encounter God in prayer and come to know the teachings of the Church, our lives are transformed, and we become disciples on the way of faith. In Family Faith Formation, parents and children journey together in this process of developing and growing in faith. Parents witness the faith to their children, and children are examples of the faith to their parents. The faith is transmitted through the exchange of Christ's love between them and by word and example.

Just recently, the Archdiocese of Chicago featured our Family Faith Formation process as their video of the week. As they filmed the video, families talked about how coming together for formation has strengthened them as a family, involved them in the practice of their faith, and provided opportunities for them to talk about their faith that they had not previously experienced. One parent even commented how her child is still talking about an activity we completed last year which had a profound impact on him. These two reflections indicate that our faith formation process is bearing fruit for our parish.

To get a glimpse of our Family Faith Formation process, watch the video at https://youtu.be/mTVte_tjIFk.

Rosina B.F. Hendrickson Coordinator of Family Faith Formation



Worship

TODAY'S READINGS: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 ♦ Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/2 ♦ 2 Peter 3:8-14 ♦ Mark 1:1-8

Anna Kasowska (Speedy Recovery) & ✠ **Paul Thompson**

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: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11 ♦ Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Isaiah 61:10b) ♦ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
♦ John 1:6-8, 19-28

DAILY READINGS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.

MONDAY, December 11

Saint Damasus I, pope

Readings: Is 35:1-10 | Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 | Lk 5:17-26

✠ **Delphine Fotagner**

TUESDAY, December 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Readings: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab | Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 | Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

✠ **Jenny & Jennifer Ancento**

WEDNESDAY, December 13

Saint Lucy, virgin and martyr

Readings: Is 40:25-31 | Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 | Mt 11:28-30

Mariette Tharaux (Speedy Recovery)

✠ **Thomas P. Dousa**

THURSDAY, December 14

Saint John of the Cross, priest and doctor of the Church

Readings: Is 41:13-20 | Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab | Mt 11:11-15

✠ **Emil & Rose Bezdek**

FRIDAY, December 15

Readings: Is 48:17-19 | Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 | Mt 11:16-19

✠ **Paul Thompson**

SATURDAY, December 16

Readings: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11 | Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 | Mt 17:9a, 10-13

✠ **Mark E. Lewis**

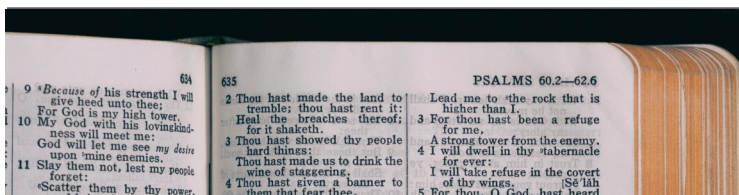


REMEMBER IN PRAYER

parishioners and friends who are ill:

Dorla Allen, Lucas Allen, Rita Allen, Alexandria Banks, , Romulo Barreno, , 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, 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, Ronald Spencer, Ed Vaughn, Charles Walker, Sr., Jo Washington, Julia Washington, Terrance Watson, Richard West, Mavis Willis, Marie Bijou Wong, Joan Yedinak.





Faith FORMATION

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION MONTHLY THEME CONVERSING WITH GOD

When asked to teach the disciples how to pray, Jesus gave them a model of prayer in the prayer we call the “Our Father.” While an integral part of our liturgical prayer, it is also a model for our personal prayer. We praise God and then make our requests known to him. This week, examine the Scriptural foundation of this prayer and the similarities and differences as given in Matthew 6: 9-13 and Luke 11: 1-4.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Patience

The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

(2 Peter 3: 9)

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Promise of Salvation

2 Peter 3:8-14

Christ Will Come in Judgment

Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist



ADULTS: With whom could you be more patient this week, as God has been patient with you?

CHILDREN: With whom can you be more patient?

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSIONS

Sundays, January 7 and 21, 2024 | 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, January 21, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

PRESCHOOL FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, January 28, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

For more information, please email Rosina Hendrickson at rhendrickson@stapostleparish.org.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

EACH DECEMBER 12 the Catholic Church honors Our Lady of Guadalupe. The feast recalls the day in 1531 when the Mexican peasant Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, having seen a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Tepeyac, yet having been rebuffed by the local bishop, obeyed Mary's command to pluck the roses that were impossibly growing in the rocky land during December. Bundling the flowers within his outer garment, Juan Diego returned to the bishop and opened his tilma to show the miracle of the roses. Then, to the wonderment of them both, the roses falling to the floor revealed an imprint of Our Lady on the very garment that bore the miraculous flowers.

Devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe has spread throughout Mexico, Latin America, North America, and the world. Her image adorns churches, homes, meeting rooms, places of business, cars, and clothes. The tilma itself remains on display at a basilica in Mexico City, where it is the object of intense devotion. Although the date is not a holyday of obligation on the Church's calendar, it is practically observed that way among the Hispanic population.

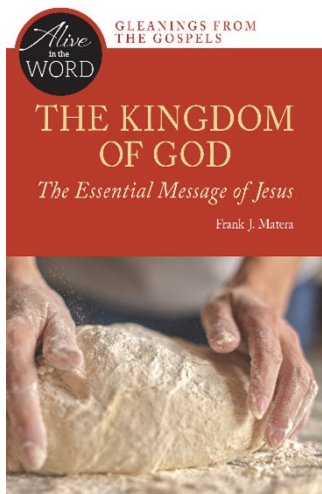
Ceremonies in parishes typically include a Mass, a serenade of devotional music addressed to the Virgin, a theatrical presentation of the story of Juan Diego, and the lively dancing of matachines to the loud accompaniment of drums, all honoring the power and love of Mary, especially her concern for the poor and the lowly.

In years when December 12 falls on a Sunday, the Mass is that of the Third Sunday of Advent, but it is still appropriate for those devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe to include music, devotions, petitions, and preaching that commemorate this important day.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Mary, the Saints, and Angels
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Notebook sized liturgical calendars are available from Family Faith Formation for \$1. Contact Rosina Hendrickson (rhendrickson@stapostleparish.org) to purchase one.

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY



ADVENT: THE KINGDOM OF GOD: THE ESSENTIAL MESSAGE OF JESUS

The kingdom of God is the central theme of Jesus' preaching. Through stories and images, Jesus teaches that God's presence among us-his powerful reign-is both mighty and quiet, both welcoming and demanding. As small as a seed and as grand as a great dinner party, the kingdom of God grows among us and transforms everyone who embraces it. In this volume of Alive in the Word, New Testament scholar Frank Matera explores three gospel passages that will orient you to this essential, transforming message of Jesus.

Tuesdays December 12, and 19

Group One: 11:00 a.m. | Parish Hall

Group Two: 7:00 p.m. | Parish Hall

Suggested Donation \$15.00

This donation helps cover the costs of materials.

SCAN ME



WINTER ORDINARY TIME: THE EUCHARIST IN SCRIPTURE

The Eucharist in Scripture explores the biblical theme of meals shared in faithful fellowship and in covenant relationship with God. Old Testament meals and promises provide a foundation for gospel meals with Jesus, culminating in the Last Supper as it is understood throughout the New Testament. Jesus' bread of life discourse and the early church's practice of "breaking bread" are also explored.

Tuesdays January 9, 16, 23 and 30 and February 6

Group One: 11:00 a.m. | Parish Hall

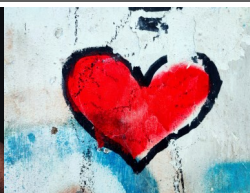
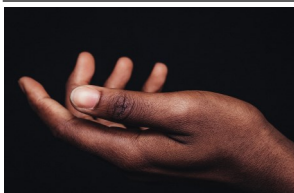
Group Two: 7:00 p.m. | Parish Hall

Suggested Donation \$25.00

This donation helps cover the costs of materials.

SCAN ME





Stewardship

SHARING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

December 2 & December 3

Thank you for your donations for the month of December. Due to the holiday deadlines for the bulletin we will provide the offertory report as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity and support of our mission.

Thank you!

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

Second Sunday of Advent

Legacy Gifts for Our Parish

Jesus told us, “whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me.” So every day, we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others.

St. Thomas the Apostle and the archdiocese steward your gifts in many ways. Please continue to keep “the least of our brothers” in your prayers, and pray for the wisdom and strength to recognize those needs. One of the ways you can provide support is through a gift from your:

- ✦ Will or Trust
- ✦ Retirement Assets
- ✦ Life Insurance Policies
- ✦ Charitable Gift Annuity

which provides you with fixed payments for life and remaining funds will benefit our parish.

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THE HYDE PARK KENWOOD Food Pantry

is open to give out groceries from 10am until 1pm on Saturdays at the **Hyde Park Union Church** at 56th & Woodlawn.

For more information, contact Margaret Mitchell at mmm17@uchicago.edu.

Please Consider a Gift to the Church that Pays you Back.

The spirit of giving is most evident during the Advent season. A Charitable Gift Annuity is a great way to make a gift to the Church and receive fixed payments for life—benefitting you today and our parish in the future.

How It Works:

1. Make a gift of \$10,000 or more to the Archdiocese of Chicago. Fund your gift annuity with cash or securities.
2. Receive fixed payments for life – for yourself or a loved one age 60 or older. Payment rates are based upon the age of the annuitant at the time you establish the gift annuity.
3. Enjoy immediate and future tax benefits, including a federal income tax deduction for a portion of your gift, if you itemize. You can schedule payments according to your financial needs, and a portion of each annuity payment will be tax-free (through life expectancy). You may also reduce capital gains tax liability for gifts of appreciated securities.
4. The funds remaining after your lifetime will support our parish or school – as designated by you.

For more information, please contact **St. Thomas the Apostle**.

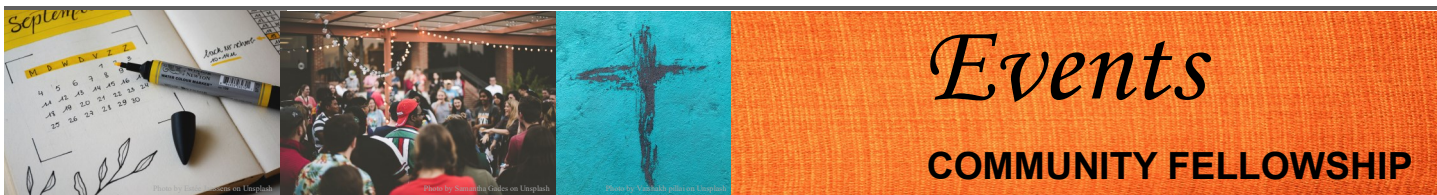
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 17129

The Knights of Columbus at St. Thomas the Apostle invite you to discern joining the fraternal organization founded by Servant of God Fr. Michael J. McGivney in 1882.



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



ADVENT EVENING PRAYER AND PARISH OPEN HOUSE



with Distinguished Preacher
Rev. Msgr. John Canary



Wednesday, December 13 | 6:30 p.m.

Hospitality

1st & 3rd
Sunday of Each Month

Parish Hall
Right Each After Mass

Social for the
Parishioners

SAVE *the* DATE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

OUR ANNUAL SIMBANG GABI CELEBRATION!

4:00PM MASS FOLLOWED BY A CELEBRATION
IN PARISH HALL!

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!

COMMUNION WITH THE SAINTS

St. Ambrose: Apostle of the Eucharist

Feast: December 7

St. Ambrose of Milan was born around AD 340 to a Roman family who had embraced Christianity. His father, Ambrosius, served as the Prefect of Gallia, the highest position within the Roman Empire that could be held by a subject. When his father died in AD 354, Ambrose returned to Rome with his mother. This afforded Ambrose the opportunity to grow in both secular knowledge and faith during his early years. He received both a liberal education and studied law. Inspired by his sister, Marcellina, who was a nun, Ambrose embraced a love of virginity, a trait that would mark him throughout his life. After completing his studies, Ambrose's eloquence in rhetoric distinguished him so that he was assigned as the consular governor of Liguria and Æmilia, residing in Milan. He was a gentle administrator who earned the love and esteem of his people. By the year AD 374, Milan had been in religious chaos for nearly twenty years. As was the practice of the time, upon the death of the bishop, the people gathered to elect a new one. Dissension reigned and Ambrose was called upon to maintain order, as was his position. While speaking for peace and moderation, a singular cry rang out "Ambrose, Bishop." The cry was immediately taken up and he was pronounced the new Bishop of Milan.



This election proved challenging, as Ambrose was not a member of the Church. Like many in his day, though a believer, he so revered the sacrament of baptism that he had not yet received it; he remained a catechumen, on the journey towards faith. Thus, Ambrose was baptized, and on 7 December 374, was ordained both priest and bishop. For the next twenty years, he worked for peace and harmony within the territory and was instrumental in leading many individuals to the waters of baptism, including St. Augustine.

In one of his first acts as bishop, St. Ambrose gave away his wealth and possessions to the poor and the Church. His brother took over many of the temporal duties, so that Ambrose could attend to the spiritual tasks of the episcopacy. He began by devoting himself to study and prayer, so that he might grow in wisdom and understanding. Ambrose brought his skills as an orator and rhetorician to his duties. St. Ambrose was an ecclesiastical teacher, sharing the deposit of faith, as it had been made known to him, with the world around him. He wrote treatises explaining Sacred Scripture, describing the moral life, and addressing dogmatic themes. His theological treatises address the true divinity of Jesus Christ, to combat the continuing threat of Arianism; the true divinity of the Holy Spirit, to combat the Macedonians; the Incarnation of our Lord; and the sacraments.

In *On the Mysteries*, a treatise written for the catechumens who are about to be baptized, St. Ambrose explores the truth and mystery of the symbols and rites of baptism; the gifts of the Holy Spirit, strengthened in confirmation; and sets forth the doctrine of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. In describing the Eucharist, St. Ambrose, recalling the manna that fed the Israelites in the desert, stated:

In very truth it is a marvelous thing that God rained manna on the fathers, and fed them with daily food from heaven . . . But yet all those who ate that food died in the wilderness, but that food which you receive, that living Bread which came down from heaven, furnishes the substance of eternal life; and whosoever shall eat of this Bread shall never die, and it is the Body of Christ.

Now consider whether the bread of angels be more excellent or the Flesh of Christ, which is indeed the body of life. That manna came from heaven, this is above the heavens; that was of heaven, this is of the Lord of the heavens; that was liable to corruption, if kept a second day, this is far from all corruption, for whosoever shall taste it holily shall not be able to feel corruption. For them water flowed from the rock, for you Blood flowed from Christ; water satisfied them for a time, the Blood satiates you for eternity. The Jew drinks and thirsts again, you after drinking will be beyond the power of thirsting; that was in a shadow, this is in truth.

If that which you so wonder at is but shadow, how great must that be whose very shadow you wonder at" (*On the Mysteries*, 47-49).

St. Ambrose died on Good Friday, 4 April 397, leaving a legacy of faith that has earned him the titles of both Father and Doctor of the Church.

Sources:

Loughlin, J. (1907). St. Ambrose. In *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. New York: Robert Appleton Company. Retrieved November 27, 2023 from New Advent: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/01383c.htm>

St. Ambrose. "On the Mysteries". In *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church, Second Series, Volume X. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, s.d..*



As the holiday season approaches, we are excited to announce our school's plans to celebrate with a fun-filled day that is sure to bring a smile to everyone's faces. This year, we will be hosting a special event called Grinch Day!

On this day, our school will transform into a whimsical winter wonderland as we celebrate the beloved Dr. Seuss character, the Grinch. Students will have the opportunity to dress up in green and red, take part in fun and festive activities. The day will also be filled with delicious holiday treats, including candy canes and hot cocoa. Our school's staff is excited to join in on the fun and we can't wait to see everyone's festive spirit come alive.

Overall, Grinch Day is a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate the holiday season. We hope that everyone is as excited for this day as we are, and we look forward to seeing everyone's enthusiastic participation.

Happy Holidays!



Dates to Remember

- No Pm Care or BGCC - Students are to be picked up by 3:45 December 15th.
- No Pm Care or BGCC - Students are to be picked up by 3:45 December 21st.
- Last day of school - December 21st
- Students return to school - January 8th
- No School - Martin Luther King Day January 15th
- No School - Teacher In Service February 16th



Follow Us on
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Platforms

Facebook: @stapostleschool
Instagram: @stthomasapostle

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

General Information

Church Address

5472 S. Kimbark Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615-5297

School Address

5467 S. Woodlawn Avenue
Chicago, IL 60615-5299

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

School Offices

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

www.stapostleschool.com
admissions@stapostleschool.com

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 | ext. 110

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

Liv Turner, parish counselor

livturner.claret@gmail.com | (224) 908-0308

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

Kianda Boyd, director of marketing

kboyd@stapostleparish.org | ext. 289

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 marketing@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.