

St. Thomas the Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Third Sunday of **ADVENT**



December 17, 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

Matthew Merz

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Thomas the Apostle,

One of the privileges of being the music minister at St. Thomas is being part of the St. Thomas Choir, a dedicated (and fun-loving) group of talented musicians. We gather most Wednesdays in the church for rehearsal, preparing music for weekend masses, which contribute to our liturgy shared together at St. Thomas each weekend.

As musicians, we are no strangers to the concept of preparation. In a way, our Wednesday rehearsals symbolize the struggles and joys of this concept: who wants to do something after the work day, in the evening, in the middle of the week, usually in the winter? The Wednesday rehearsal remains one of the many mysteries in my life, as my attitude before rehearsal is usually "do I really have to leave my home?" especially when compounded with rain or snow. But, the minute we gather together as a choir, the feeling immediately changes. Throughout our rehearsal and preparation, we take a pause from the busyness of life, work, and stress, and focus on our collective musical mission and our place as ministers in the Church. And, our post-rehearsal outings to Jimmy's never hurt, either.

As Fr. Trail mentioned in his homily last weekend, the season of Advent allows our parish to do the same thing—prepare and focus—in more ways than one. In our personal lives, we observe this season to prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's birth. As a parish, we symbolize this preparation in a variety of ways: the change in our music for mass, the new incense smell for Advent, and the beautiful wreath suspended at the entrance of the church.

Our Advent gathering hymn, spread across many verses, has a wealth of beautiful imagery:

*Word of justice, come to dwell here.
Word we long for, Word we thirst for.
Promised Savior, true Messiah.
You we long for, you we thirst for*

As you sing the responses to this gathering hymn each week, listen to the words the cantor and choir sing. Use the text to prepare, in your own way, for our shared liturgy throughout the Advent season with intentionality and purpose.

Blessing,

Matthew Merz, Music Ministry

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

Sister Leontine

Farewell letter

Dear Fr Michael Trail Staff of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church and School,

Dear parishioners and friends of St Thomas the Apostle Church and School,

As my internship at St Thomas the Apostle comes to an end, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude for the enriching experience and the unwavering support I have received from each one of you. This semester spent with you, a lovely and loving community, has been nothing short of transformative. The warmth of your welcome and the numerous interactions we shared have left an indelible mark on my journey and helped me grow. What a privilege it has been to share the journey of faith with you!

I have enjoyed and appreciated every single moment spent with you. From the joyous celebrations of masses to the reflections through the catechumen dismissals and Bible studies, as well as the time spent at school with our lovely students, teachers and school staff, each moment has brought me joy. I also appreciated the family faith formations which were enriching. I owe gratitude to Fr Michael Trail his collaborators, the staff, and all the guiding figures who generously shared their wisdom and encouraged me every step of my journey. Your mentorship has been a great help, enabling me to learn new ways of ministering and helping me to grow in my faith.

In bidding farewell, I carry with me lessons that were etched in my heart. Your inclusiveness, your commitment to service, and the spirit of unity within the community, have been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement. As I move forward on my journey, I hold each of you in my prayers, wishing for the continued growth and prosperity of this parish. While my time here as an intern officially ends, I am still a part of the parish, and my heart remains connected to this cherished parish.

Thank you for welcoming and integrating me into the family of Saint Thomas the Apostle Church, allowing me to feel at home. I end my internship with a heart filled with gratitude and a spirit enriched with love and faith.

May God's grace and blessings keep on shining upon each one of you.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Sr Leontine Gabrielle Faye—CTU INTERN



Worship

TODAY'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

✠ Mark E. Lewis, ✠ Joan Metzger

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: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a) ♦ Romans 16:25-27 ♦ Luke 1:26-38
♦ John 1:6-8, 19-28

READINGS FOR: CHRISTMAS EVE

Isaiah 9:1-6 ♦ Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 ♦ Titus 2:11-14 ♦ Luke 2: 1-14

READINGS FOR: CHRISTMAS DAY

Isaiah 52: 7-10 ♦ Psalm 98: 1-6 ♦ Hebrews 1: 1-6 ♦ John 1: 1-18

DAILY READINGS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.

MONDAY, December 18

Readings: Jer 23:5-8 | Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 | Mt 1:18-25

✠ Jenny & Jennifer Amento

Mariette Tharaux, (Speedy Recovery)

TUESDAY, December 19

Readings: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a | Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 | Lk 1:5-25

✠ Stella Kim

Anna Kasowska, (Speedy Recovery)

WEDNESDAY, December 20

Readings: Is 7:10-14 | Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 | Lk 1:26-38

✠ Jeffrey Franklin

✠ Paul Thompson

✠ Delphine Fontagners

THURSDAY, December 21

Saint Peter Canisius, priest and doctor of the Church

Readings: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a | Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 |
Lk 1:39-45

✠ Joanne Kiekenapp

FRIDAY, December 22

Readings: 1 Sm 1:24-28/ 1Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd | Lk 1:46-56

✠ Joan Metzger

SATURDAY, December 23

Saint John of Kanty, priest

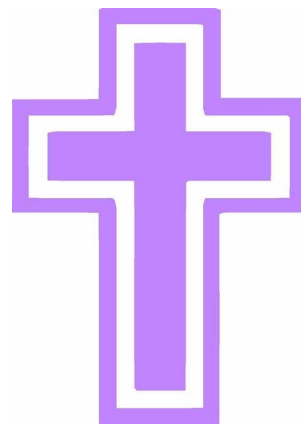
Readings: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 | Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 |
Lk 1:57-66

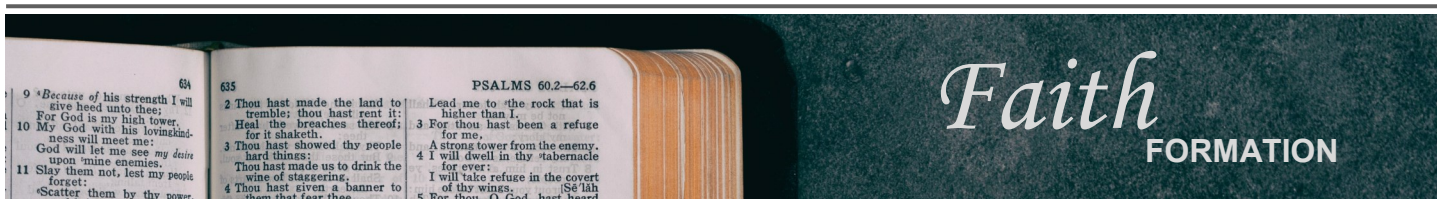
✠ Kenneth Trail

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 Graniczny, 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.





Notebook sized liturgical calendars are available for \$1.
Contact Rosina Hendrickson at
rhendrickson@stapostleparish.org to purchase one.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION MONTHLY THEME CONVERSING WITH GOD

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines five forms of prayer, which we will explore over the next five weeks.

This week, you are invited to consider prayers of thanksgiving. The liturgy we celebrate is a prayer of thanksgiving and the word Eucharist means thanksgiving. In our liturgy, we give thanks to God for what he has done for us and we become more fully God's creation, being formed into the Body of Christ, which we receive.

We must also realize that each moment and action of our day can become a moment of thanksgiving. We are called to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians, 5: 18).

How will you thank God this week?

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Bringing Joy Through Justice

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation.
(Isaiah 61: 10)

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–11

The Mission to the Afflicted

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Christian Conduct; Blessing

John 1:6–8, 19–28

John as Witness to the Light



ADULTS: What work of justice could you do this week to bring someone joy?

CHILDREN: What could you do for someone this week to make them happy?

✦ Christmas on Monday

WHEN CHRISTMAS falls on a Monday, it causes temptation. In the Catholic Church, we begin celebrating Sundays and holydays on the previous evening. This practice stems from a custom that reckoned the start of the day at sunset. Saturday night Mass provides a convenience for individuals and families making alternative plans for Sunday morning, but it more deeply alerts us to the holiness of the most important day of the week.

Many families find Christmas Eve Mass an ideal way to begin observing this holyday. They gather for the Eucharist at church, then perhaps go home for a meal and exchange gifts. The next morning, their Christmas becomes a day of rest.

But when Christmas falls on a Monday, things get confusing. Two eves and two days intersect. Your parish will probably offer Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent on Saturday evening December 23 and Sunday morning December 24. Then on Sunday evening December 24, it will begin celebrating Christmas. That's a lot of church in 48 hours.

You may be tempted to skip a Mass either for the Fourth Sunday of Advent or for Christmas. You may be tempted to go to one Mass on December 24 and count it for both events. Advent is very short in such years, barely over three weeks, and it deserves our full attention. Christmas, of course, is one of the primary celebrations of the Church Year. These two distinctive liturgies draw us into the mystery of the Word Made Flesh.

Yes, it is extra effort to go to church twice during a busy interval of time, but there is no better way to prepare for and celebrate the reason for the season—the birth of Jesus Christ!

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020
Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved.
Written by Paul Turner.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSIONS

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

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

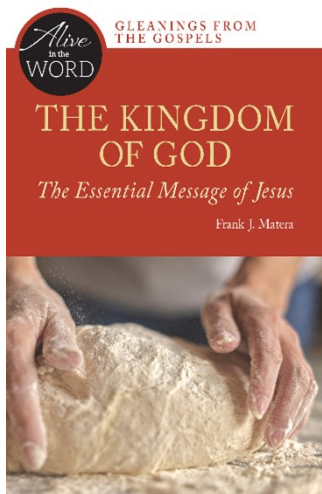
Sunday, January 21, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

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.

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.

Tuesday, December 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

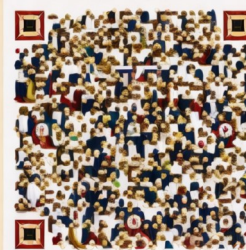
Group One: 11:00 a.m. | Parish Hall

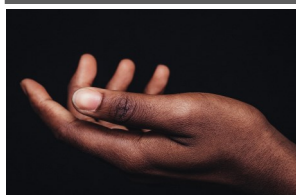
Group Two: 7:00 p.m. | Parish Hall

Suggested Donation \$25.00

This donation helps cover the costs of materials.

SCAN ME





Stewardship

SHARING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

December 2 & December 3

Offertory	\$17,302.16
Give Central	\$5,464.00
Christmas	\$1,065.00
Building Fund	\$525.00
Hospitality	\$132.00
Candles	\$101.00
Flowers	\$490.00
Mass Offerings	\$10.00

Total \$25,099.16

Thank you!

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

Third Sunday of Advent

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and [such] we are. (1 John 3:1)

Please Remember Our Priests

Priests have dedicated their lives to the ministry of God's children, serving our needs as Catholics without asking for anything in return. Now, it is our turn to show our love and care for their ever-faithful support. Please consider including a legacy gift for Priests' Health and Retirement to support the healthcare needs of our active priests, as well as the medical and housing needs of our retired priests.

For more information, please call **Priests' Health and Retirement** at **708.449.8026**. If you would like to make a gift today, please visit prmaa.org.

STA Now Accepts VENMO

Catholic Bishop of Chicago Corp. Sol

@StThomasHydePark



venmo

Scan this code to donate.



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.



Events

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Hospitality

1st & 3rd
Sunday of Each Month

Parish Hall
Right Each After Mass

Social for the
Parishioners

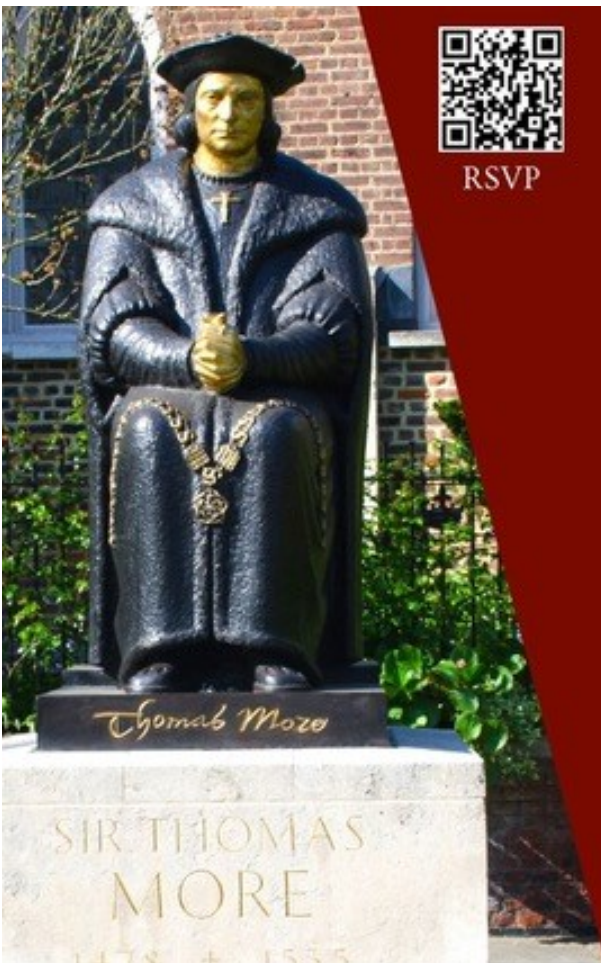
SAVE *the* DATE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

OUR ANNUAL SIMBANG GABI CELEBRATION!

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

PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!



RSVP

Join other legal professionals in Hyde Park
to offer God the fruits of our labor


Red Mass

Saturday, February 10

4:00 pm Eucharistic Celebration
Bp. Jeffrey Grob, JCD, Presider & Homilist

5:00 pm Reception & Lecture
Dr. Lu Ann Homza, "When Witches Litigate"

6:30 End

 **St. Thomas**
THE Apostle
CATHOLIC CHURCH



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

School

Strong Foundation... Future Success!



As the holiday season approaches

If you're looking for a school that can provide a well-rounded education, look no further than St. Thomas the Apostle School! We are dedicated to helping our students achieve their full potential and preparing them for success in all aspects of life. From our experienced teachers to our supportive community, we strive to provide an environment that fosters growth and development.

So why wait? Join us today and discover why we are the right school for you!

Happy Holidays!



Dates to Remember

- Christmas Program at 12:00pm
- 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 our
Social Media
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.