

St. Thomas the Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL



December 24 and 25, 2023

GOD'S PEOPLE IN EXTRAORDINARY VARIETY

www.stapostleparish.org

Bulletin Image: www.unsplash.com



Christmas 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we also celebrate the birth of our hope. When he came among us as one like us in all things but sin, he lifted us up to new and transformed life. In fact, he opened for us the way to share in the very life of God. One of the prayers of the Mass gives us these words: "...may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

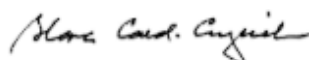
The struggles that we face in our personal lives and in our wounded world do not have the last word. We are meant for more. We are meant for full and eternal life. I pray that our celebration of the Lord's birth will remind us of the glory that will carry us beyond the challenges, sometimes truly significant challenges that mark our lives and our world.

We must also remember that the Lord did not just come among us once and long ago. He continues to walk with us as we walk with each other. Our celebrations of the Eucharist remind of that. And he will never abandon his people. He is now and always Emmanuel, our God with us. Our journey is his journey. And this year, having celebrated the first of two synods of the Church, we are especially aware that he accompanies us as we accompany one another.

In this holy season, I invite you to pray. Take time, create a quiet space, look on the creche, read the gospels, and allow yourself to know that he is near and that he walks with you. If you do so, I can assure you that you will know his peace. Then, take what you learn from him to your family, to your workplace, to your community, and to entire world. The gift of Jesus, the Incarnate Word of God, is not something we can hold for ourselves. We are called and destined to share it with others.

As I celebrate the Eucharist, I will remember you and pray that you will have a living sense of the Lord among us, the one who walks with us and draws us forward into the fullness of his life.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Archbishop of Chicago

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,

*The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord."
(Luke 2:10-11)*

As we celebrate another Christmas in our 154-year history and my third year as your pastor, I am grateful for the opportunity to come together to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Christmas is not only a festive day in the life of the Church but also in our families. Opportunities to come together are such cherished moments and, particularly as people of faith, the chance to communally worship God and to thank God for the blessings we have received is a great joy. As I look at all the blessings of this past year, I rejoice in the many ways our parish has continued to grow, thrive, and stand as a shining beacon of God's love in the community.

I am particularly grateful as we celebrate this joyful year in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our church building in October 2024.

Please know of my gratitude for your generous support for the parish this Christmas. Your support helps us continue our vital ministry that has been a beacon of light and hope in the Hyde Park, Kenwood, and Woodlawn communities for over 154 years. From providing opportunities for prayer and worship, educating the whole person at our parish school and faith formation activities, as well as the charitable good work we do, your generous support allows us to continue the mission of Christ and His Church to love God and neighbor daily.

This Christmas, know of my prayers for you, your families, and those you love. May God bless you and may God bless St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and School.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Michael K. Trail
Pastor



Worship

TODAY'S READINGS: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 ♦ Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 ♦ Romans 16:25-27 ♦ Luke 1:26-38
✠ Mathilda Nsekera & 🍰 Fr Phil Hogan, OFM, (Happy 88th birthday)

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

*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

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 or Genesis 15:1-6, 21: 1-3 ♦ Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5, or Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 ♦ Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 ♦ Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

DAILY READINGS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.

TUESDAY, December 26

Saint Stephen, first martyr

Readings: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 | Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16ac and 17
| Mt 10:17-22

Williams Family, (Special Intention)
Monica Horvath, (Speedy Recovery)

WEDNESDAY, December 27

Saint John, apostle and evangelist

Readings: 1 Jn 1:1-4 | Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 | Jn 20:1a, 2-8
✠ **Gordon Olaf Hendrickson**

THURSDAY, December 28

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

Readings: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2 | Ps 124: 2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 |
Mt 2:13-18

✠ **Tom Bacik**

FRIDAY, December 29

Saint Thomas Becket, bishop and martyr

Readings: 1 Jn 2:3-11 | Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 | Lk 2:22-35

✠ **Felipe & Fedila Martinez**
Mariette Tharaux, (Speedy Recovery)

SATURDAY, December 30

Readings: 1 Jn 2:12-17 | Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 | Lk 2:36-40
Lk 1:57-66

Anna Kasowka, (Speedy Recovery)

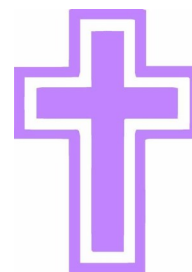
REMEMBER IN PRAYER

parishioners and friends who are ill:

Dorla Allen, Lucas Allen, Rita Allen, Alexandria Banks, Romulo Barreno, Dorothy Bonds, Bradford family, Diane Clarke, Emil F. Cocco, 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, Manowski 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, Mavis Willis, Marie Bijou Wong, Joan Yedinak.

And for those who have died:

Richard West, (brother of Shela West)
Susan Kmetty Catania, (mother of Annemarie Catania)



(Bulletins printed in advance due to holiday schedule)

CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE

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



WITH GRATITUDE

We give thanks for those whose contributions helped purchase the beautiful poinsettias that adorn the sanctuary during the Christmas season.

In memory and honor of . . .

Anonymous Donor

Lenora M. Austin

Beverly E. Bishop

Juanita S. Burris

Lisa Couch

Eddie Marie Gonzales

Ann Harvilla

Wanda Jackson-Castro

John and Barbara Moore

McCall/Austin Family

Jesse Bishop and Brian Williams

James S. Burris

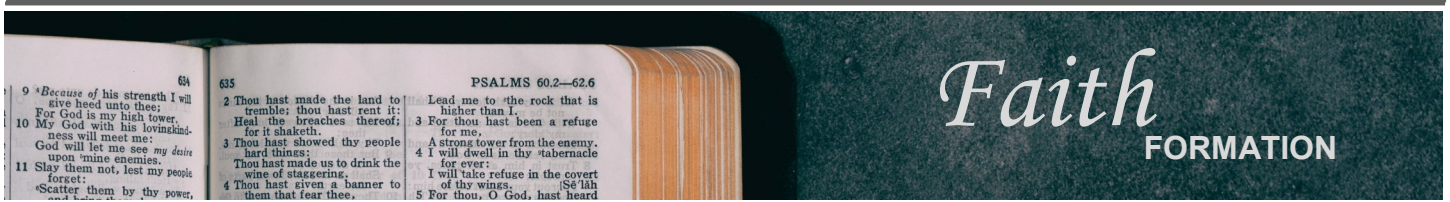
Lawrence, Gwendolyn, Michael, Iris, and Mark

Earl Gregoy Hamilton and Edward Raymond Renaud

George and Dolores Harvilla

Dr. Angela Marie Jackson

John H. Moore IV. Moore IV



FAMILY FAITH FORMATION MONTHLY THEME CONVERSING WITH GOD

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines five forms of prayer, which we are exploring over the next few weeks.

This week, you are invited to consider prayers of adoration and blessing. In this form of prayer we recognize our role as the created of God and acknowledge that we are completely dependent upon him. We stand before the one who is our Creator and sustainer of life with humble devotion and love. We proclaim the greatness of God and respond to the great gifts he has bestowed upon us.

How will you adore and bless God this week?

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Acceptance of God's Will

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.
(Luke 1: 38)

2 Samuel 7:1–5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
The Lord's Promises to David

Romans 16: 25-27
Doxology

Luke 1: 26–38
The Annunciation of the Lord

ADULTS: How do you open your heart to what God wants for you? How do you follow the pathway that leads to happiness?

CHILDREN: Is there something hard you need to do this week? What might make it easier?

WE WAIT IN JOYFUL HOPE!

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK NATIVITY OF THE LORD Christmas Day

His own did not accept him.
(John 1: 10-11)

Isaiah 52: 7–10
Psalm 98: 1, 2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6
The One Who Brings Glad Tidings

Hebrews 1:1-6
God Speaks Through His Son

John 1:1–18
In the Beginning Was the Word

ADULTS: If Jesus were to be born today, do you think you would accept and follow him? Why or why not?

CHILDREN: What could you and your family do for others during the next week to celebrate the birth of Jesus?

TODAY IS BORN OUR SAVIOR!

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

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.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSIONS

Sundays, February 4 and 18, 2024 | 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

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

Comites Christi: Three Feasts and the Passion and Death of Christ

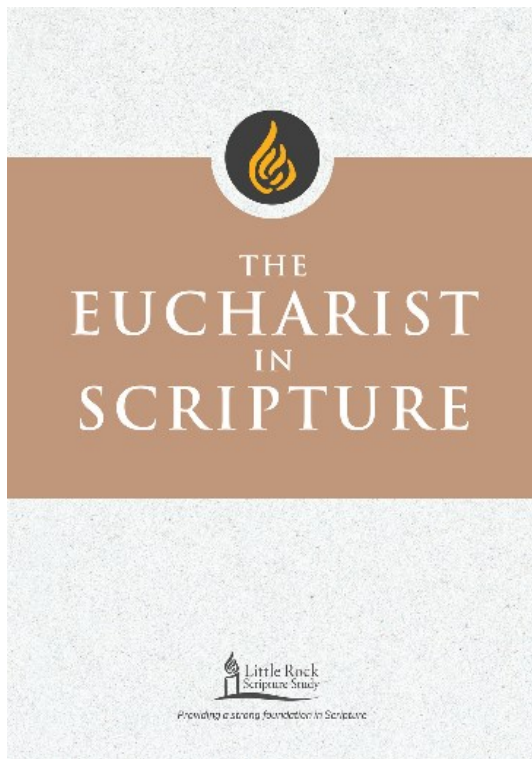
by Bro. Silas Henderson, SDS; edited by Timothy A. Johnston. Used with permission of the author.

The oldest liturgical calendars include a series of saints' feasts immediately following the celebration of Christmas. Medieval people saw these saints as a sort of cortege of honor for the new-born King, calling them the *Comites Christi* ("Companions of Christ"). Those honored on these days, Saint Stephen (December 26), Saint John the Evangelist (December 27), and the Holy Innocents (December 28), help us to reflect not only on Who it is who has been born, but these feasts—particularly the chants and readings of the Mass and Liturgy of the Hours—also invite us to reflect on the fullness of the Paschal Mystery, recalling the Death and Resurrection of Christ and the experience of suffering endured by the first Christians.

DECEMBER 26	St. Stephen, <i>protomartyr</i>	Acts chapters 6-7	This feast invites us to reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus. Stephen represents those Christians who publicly professed the faith and who were martyred for it.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is it so important to reflect on the Cross in these Christmas Days?• How can you more fully live in the gift of the Savior's love in these holy days?			
DECEMBER 27	St. John, <i>Apostle and Evangelist</i>	John 20:1-8	This feast invites us to reflect on the resurrection of Jesus. John reminds us of all those Christians who professed the faith, but who were not martyred.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does today's feasts enrich your celebration of Christmas?• What is the connection between the Mystery of the Incarnation and the mystery of the empty tomb and the full Paschal Mystery?			
DECEMBER 28	Holy Innocents, <i>martyrs</i>	Matthew 2:13-18	This feast reminds us of the suffering of the early Church. The Holy Innocents represent all those Christians who have been martyred, but never professed the faith.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How does this feast of the Holy Innocents help to deepen your understanding of the meaning of Christmas?• Where do you see the light of Christ shining in the darkness in our world today?• How can you more effectively pray for and support those innocent children, women, and men who suffer from injustice, exploitation, and neglect to find justice and peace?			

To read Bro. Silas' full article on each of these feasts, visit the parish website: <https://stapostleparish.org>

JOIN US FOR BIBLE STUDY



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.

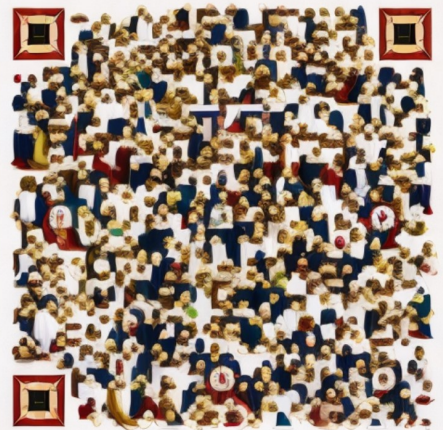
Tuesdays January 9, 16, 23 and 30 and February 6

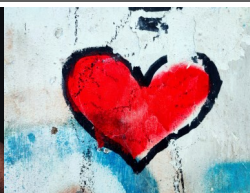
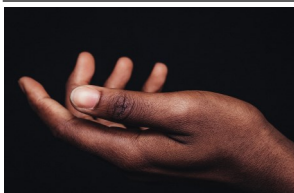
Group One: 11:00 a.m. | Parish Hall
Group Two: 7:00 p.m. | Parish Hall

Suggested Donation \$25.00

This donation helps cover the costs of materials.

SCAN ME





Stewardship

SHARING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

December 9 & December 10

Offertory	\$4,428.70
Give Central	\$2,702.00
Misc Donation	\$15.00
Building Fund	\$4,040.00
Wedding	\$600.00
Candles	\$10.00
Flowers	\$321.00

Total **\$12, 126.70**

Thank you!

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

As stewards of our faith, please be a light to others by considering a gift through your individual retirement account (IRA) in support of our parish. If your family's needs are being met, you may wish to include our parish as a beneficiary. By naming **St. Thomas the Apostle** as a beneficiary, you'll provide crucial financial support to our parish and the entire value of your gift will be transferred to us free from federal estate and income tax. It costs nothing to change the beneficiary on your retirement plan and will mean everything to our future parish community.

You can contact your IRA administrator and request a change-of-beneficiary form to include **St. Thomas the Apostle** as a recipient of your good stewardship. Please consult with your account administrator for more information, or contact your parish director of operations **St. Thomas the Apostle**.

Or contact Marguerite Q. Zappa, Philanthropy Giving Officer, Archdiocese of Chicago at M; 312.848.3068 or mzappa@archchicago.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.

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

- 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.