

St. Thomas the Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL



December 31, 2023

GOD'S PEOPLE IN EXTRAORDINARY VARIETY

www.stapostleparish.org

Bulletin Image: www.unsplash.com

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,

Happy New Year!

This time of year is a natural one to be reflective of personal and professional goals for the new year. As you do that reflection on what 2024 will look like, I also hope you consider your spiritual goals for the new year. Some questions to consider:

- ▶ What are some spiritual/prayer practices that I would like to do this year that I did not do last year?
- ▶ What can I do to deepen my relationship with God? Through scripture? Prayer? Study?
- ▶ How is God working in my life each day?
- ▶ What is something I want to give the Lord this new year?

I leave you with a very simple prayer for the new year:

We Pray...

For healing...prepare us for surprises.

For strength...prepare us for surprises.

For vision...prepare us for surprises.

For transformation...prepare us for surprises.

For messengers and messages...prepare us for surprises.

For the community...prepare us for surprises.

For acceptance - of ourselves and others...prepare us for surprises.

To make room at our tables...prepare us for surprises.

For Truth-seeking...prepare us for surprises.

For support...prepare us for surprises.

For Common Ground...prepare us for surprises.

Walk beside us, O Holy One,

as we question and welcome,

as we challenge and invite,

as we discover and understand,

as we see, touch, taste, smell, and listen for the Newness awaiting us in 2024.

May we, Your Holy People, walk forward together side by side.

Amen

- Written by Sister Mary Ann Barret, O.P.



Worship

TODAY'S READINGS: THE HOLY FAMILY

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

✠ Thomas P. Dousa, ✠ Alfred & Elmonzo Bijou, Miloslava Dousa (Special Intention)

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: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 60:1-6 ♦ Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11) ♦ Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6 ♦ Matthew 2:1-12

DAILY READINGS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.

MONDAY, January 1

The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Readings: Nm 6:22-27 | Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a) | Gal 4:4-7 |
Lk 2:16-21

✠ Joan Metzger

✠ Fr Don Senior, C.P.

TUESDAY, January 2

Saint Basil the Great and Saint Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church

Readings: 1 Jn 2:22-28 | Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 | Jn 1:19-28

✠ Costigan, McPhillips, Ziemba, Kosinski Families

WEDNESDAY, January 3

The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Readings: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6 | Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6 | Jn 1:29-34

✠ Ethel & Edward Wong Sr.

✠ Pat Morris

THURSDAY, January 4

St. Elizabeth Ann Soton

Readings: 1 Jn 3:7-10 | Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9 | Jn 1:35-42

✠ Sonya Ballard

FRIDAY, January 5

St. John Neumann

Readings: 1 Jn 3:11-21 | Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5 | Jn 1:43-51

✠ Alma Collins Family

SATURDAY, January 6

St. Andre Bessette

Readings: 1 Jn 5:5-13 | Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 | Mk 1:7-11 or
Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

✠ Kevin Comeaux

✠ Gwendolyn Lewis

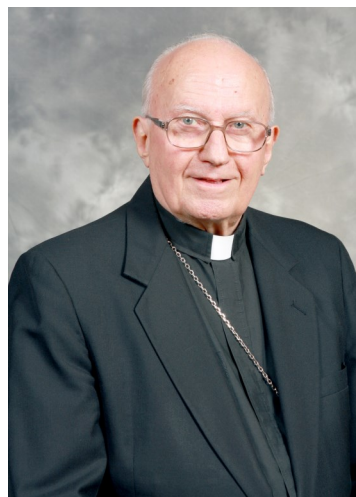
REMEMBER IN PRAYER

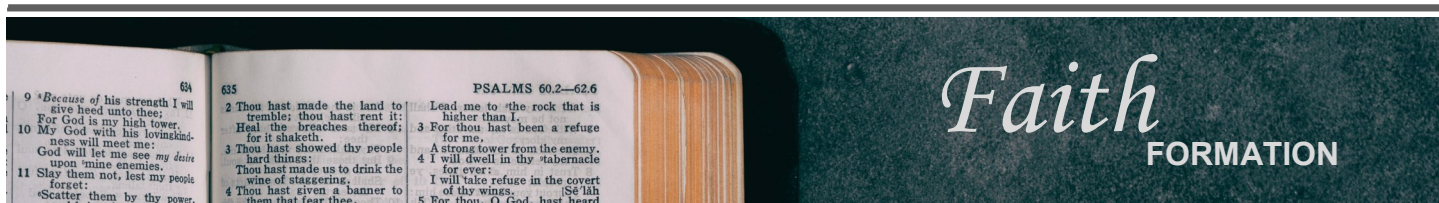
parishioners and friends who are ill:

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

And for those who have died:

Bishop Raymond E. Goedert, Retired Auxiliary
Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago





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 praise. In this form of prayer we exalt and praise God merely for who he is. We acknowledge simply that God is God and praise him for that simple, yet complex, fact. Prayers of praise go beyond anything that God does for or gives to us. In Exodus 3: 14, God tells Moses to “tell the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.” We praise God for being I AM.

Explore the Book of Psalms for examples of hymns and prayers of praise to God. In these Psalms, the community is encouraged to sing joyfully the praise and glory of God. Consider reading Psalm 47, Psalms 96-99, Psalm 104, Psalm 135: 1-2, and Psalm 136.

How will you praise God this week?

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

THE HOLY FAMILY

Respect for Elders

“Look up to the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so,” he added, “will your descendants be.”
(Genesis 15: 5)

Genesis 15:1–6, 21: 1-3

Promise of a Great Nation

Hebrews 11: 8, 11-12, 17-19

The Faith of Abraham

Luke 2: 22–40

The Presentation of the Lord



ADULTS: What does your family do to honor and respect its oldest members?

CHILDREN: Who are the oldest people you know, and what can you learn from them?

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Living with Uncertainty

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.
(Luke 2: 19)

Numbers 6: 22–27

The priestly blessing

Galatians 4:4-7

Free sons of God in Christ

Luke 2:16–21

The shepherds' visit, the circumcision



ADULTS: When have you found it difficult to understand or accept a teaching of the church? What helps you be faithful?

CHILDREN: Who teaches you to have faith in God?

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

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

PRESCHOOL FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

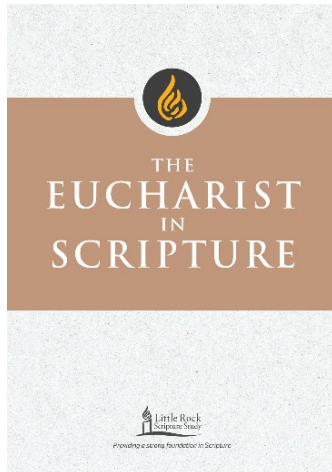
Sunday, January 28, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

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.

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.*

SCAN ME



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.

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

Patricia C. Bennett

Beverly E. Bishop

Juanita S. Burris

Lisa Couch

Eddie Marie Gonzales

Ann Harvilla

Wanda Jackson-Castro

John and Barbara Moore

McCall/Austin Family

Nicole A. Neely and Randal and Viviana Thompson

Jesse Bishop and Brian Williams

James S. Burris

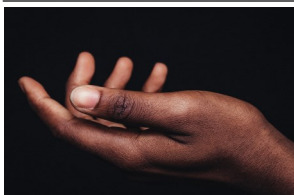
Lawrence, Gwendolyn, Michael, Iris, and Mark

Earl Gregoy Hamilton and Edward Raymond Renaud

George and Dolores Harvilla

Dr. Angela Marie Jackson

John H. Moore IV, Moore IV



Stewardship

SHARING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

December 16 & December 17

Offertory	\$4,415.65
Give Central	\$3,460.00
Christmas	\$873.00
Building Fund	\$255.00
All Souls	\$30.00
Candles	\$85.00
Flowers	\$100.00
Mass Offerings	\$20.00

Total \$9,238.65

Thank you!

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

Obstacles to Stewardship

People who want to live as Christian disciples and Christian stewards face serious obstacles. In the United States and other nations, a dominant secular culture often contradicts religious convictions about the meaning of life. This culture frequently encourages us to focus on ourselves and our pleasures.

At times, we can find it far too easy to ignore spiritual realities and to deny religion a role in shaping human and social values. As Catholics who have entered into the mainstream of American society and experienced its advantages, many of us also have been adversely influenced by this secular culture. We know what it is to struggle against selfishness and greed, and we realize that it is harder for many today to accept the challenge of being a Christian steward. It is essential, therefore, that we make a special effort to understand the true meaning of stewardship and live accordingly.

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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.

Why Do We Need To Teach Children To Give?

Stewardship is not just for adults. It is important that young people also learn that they are greatly blessed by God and that God, in turn, expects them to share their blessings. Due to the extraordinary emphasis on commercialism and materialism in our society today, there is an increased awareness within charitable organizations across the country, including parishes, that we must teach our children the importance of giving while they are young and before they are caught up in a culture that teaches them to constantly strive for more and better material possessions for themselves.

Consider the following:

- ▶ All charities are seeing a noticeable and alarming decline in giving by young people.
 - ▶ Typically, giving only happens after all our needs are met.
- ▶ Advertising trends are convincing young people that new technology, material possessions and lifestyles that would have once been considered as luxuries and “wants” are now “needs.”

As advertisers excel at teaching young people that everything is a need, we must excel at teaching them stewardship – that giving is a need, too.

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 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.