

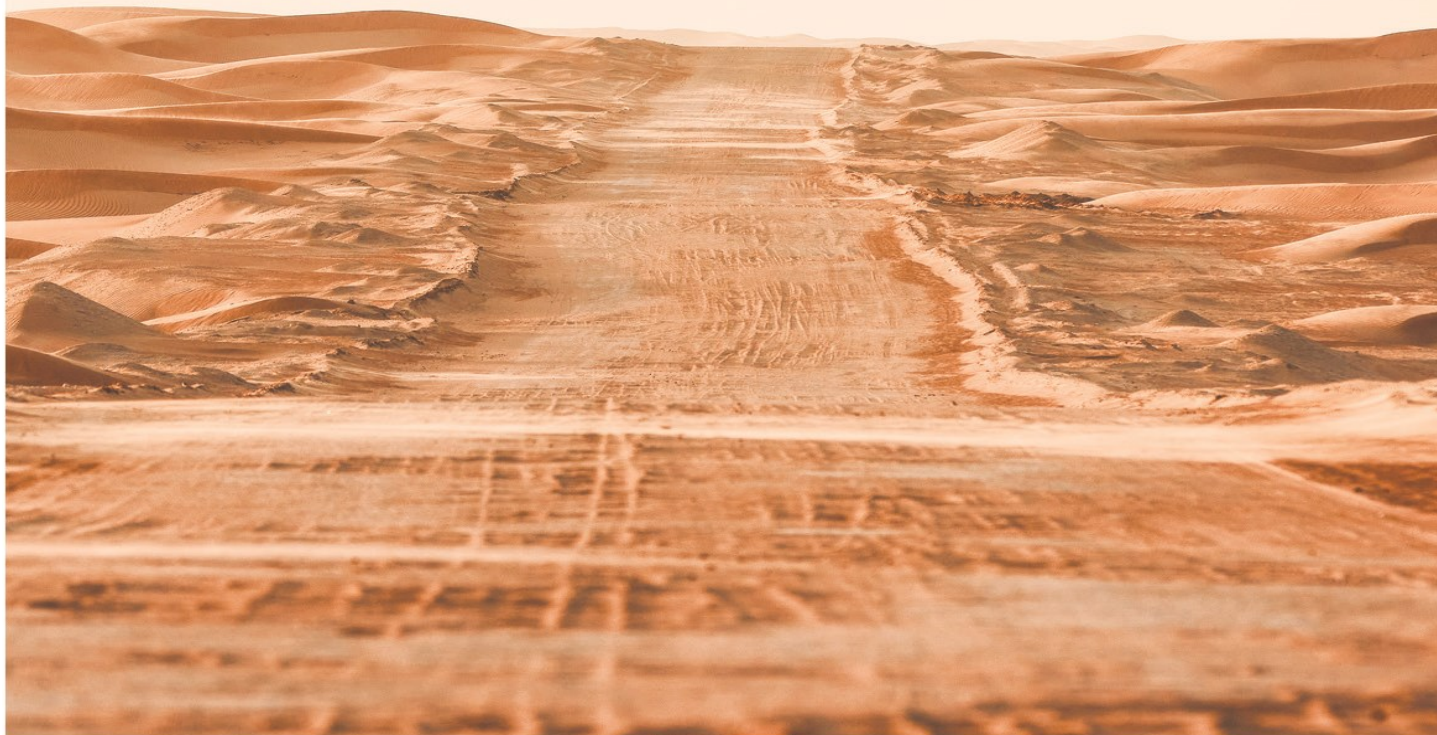
St. Thomas the Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HE LEFT AND WENT OFF.

— MARK 1:35 —



GOD'S PEOPLE IN EXTRAORDINARY VARIETY
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

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.



FROM

Matt Merz

Director of Music

Dear friends in Music,

The last time I wrote to you, we were in the midst of the Advent season preparing for Christmas. I hope it was a time of rest and joy for you, your family and friends, and all those important in your life.

For those still seeking a new resolution or activity in this new year, I warmly welcome you to join my favorite ministry at our parish, the St. Thomas the Apostle Choir. We are a fun-loving, warmth-filled group that meets each Wednesday. While music and rehearsal is our focus, fellowship and fun is our passion—you'll often find us at Jimmy's after rehearsal. And, as we approach the Lenten season, there will be a variety of opportunities to sing together at, including prayer services, Sunday masses, and, of course, Triduum.

"Why can't I hear the cantor?" is a question that I'm asked frequently by parishioners and visitors. As a kid, relying on a cantor to sing every hymn and song on the microphone was something I was accustomed to, and I imagine that experience is more or less familiar for many of us in this congregation.

Part of the philosophy I share with Fr. Trail and Timothy Johnston, our Pastoral Associate, is that the congregation is the leader of sung prayer in the Church, not the cantor—that congregational singing is of the utmost importance. And, the teachings of the Church back this: "*The full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else, for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit.*" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 14)

At St. Thomas the Apostle, the role of our cantors is to help guide the assembly and reassure them; they are a visual representation, raising their arms to let you know that it's *now time to sing*—but, most critically, they do not sing *at* the congregation. You'll notice this especially during the Gathering, Preparation of the Gifts, and Song of Praise and/or Recessional Hymns, where the cantor doesn't use the microphone at all. At other points during the mass, you'll notice the cantor utilize the microphone—the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, and Communion Hymn. At these points, it's necessary to have the cantor sing the verses of the psalm, intone the gospel acclamation, and provide assembly support during the communion procession.

Our congregation has a powerful voice, and it's incredible to hear the whole church singing from my perspective at the very front of the church! I would love to hear your thoughts and suggestions on our music at St. Thomas the Apostle—you are always welcome to write to me at mmerz@stapostleparish.org.

—Matt



Worship

THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS: 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Job 7:1-4, 6-7 ♦ Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (see3a) ♦ 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 ♦ Mark 1:29-39

✠ Celerina & Anatolio Soriano ✠ Frankie Irene Woodruff

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: 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 ♦ Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11 (7)/1 ♦ 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 ♦ Mark 1:40-45

DAILY READINGS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.

MONDAY, February 5

Saint Agatha, virgin and martyr

Readings: 1Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 | Ps 132:6-7, 8-10 | Mk 6:53:56
Mk 5:1-20

✠ Dorothy Gilliard

✠ Ricardo Sison

TUESDAY, February 6

Saint Paul Miki and companions, martyrs

Readings: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 | Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11 |
Mk 7:1-13

✠ Frank Yurco

Diane Clarke, (Speedy Recovery)

WEDNESDAY, February 7

Readings: 1Kgs 10:1-10 | Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40 | Mk 7:14-23

✠ Valerie Denise Holloway

THURSDAY, February 8

Saint Jerome Emiliani, priest

Saint Josephine Bakhita, virgin

Readings: 1 Kgs 11:4-13 | Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40 |
Mk 7:24-30

✠ Anthony Gomes

FRIDAY, February 9

Readings: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 | Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15 |
Mk 7:31-37

✠ Maggie Maria Kast

SATURDAY, February 10

Saint Scholastica, virgin

Readings: 1kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 | Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22 |
Mk 8:1-10

Diane Clarke, (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. 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, Terrence Watson, Mavis Willis, Marie Bijou Wong, Joan Yedinak.

And for those who have died:

Marshall F. Bynum, Jr

Dr. Sarah Wright





Worship

SAINT BLASE BLESSING

February 3



Sickness and suffering are mysteries that confront most Christians at some time in their lives. Believers cherish the stories of Jesus' tender concern for the poor and sick who sought to find relief and meaning in their struggles. The flesh-and-blood example of a long line of Christian witnesses whose faith sustained them in time of trial offers us hope when shadows darken our lives. Saint Blase was such a person.

Blase served as bishop of Armenia in the fourth century. Little is known about his life, but tradition tells us that he saved a small boy from choking on a fish bone. Because of this, his help is sought for those who are sick, especially those who are afflicted with illnesses of the throat. On February 3, the feast of Saint Blase, the church continues its ministry to the sick with the blessing of throats.

This blessing, which can take place either after the homily at Mass or as part of a liturgy of the word, invokes God's healing and protection. Two blessed candles, joined in the form of a cross, are placed around the throat of each person seeking a blessing. The minister then prays, "Through the intercession of Saint Blase, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the

throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Humbled by physical weakness and human limitations, we acknowledge our faith in God's protective love for all who call upon God's name.

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Text by Kathy Luty. Art by Chuck Ludeke.

ALWAYS THANKSGIVING

The liturgy of the eucharist refers to the part of the Mass that begins with the collection and the preparation of the altar and the gifts of bread and wine. What are we doing in these actions? Much of the answer lies in the word eucharist. Derived from a Greek word, it means "thanksgiving."

The eucharistic prayer, beginning with "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts..." and ending with the Great Amen, is the central part of the Mass. It is proclaimed over bread and wine, the basic signs of life and death, food and drink from the tables of ordinary people. We praise God for creation. We give God thanks and praise for Jesus, and for Jesus' saving deeds. We ask God that the abundance promised at this holy table may be shared with the whole world, with all who seek God, even with the dead.

The eucharistic prayer—although said aloud only by the priest—is not "the priest's prayer." The entire prayer requires every baptized person's full, conscious and active participation. That does not mean that everyone reads the words aloud—that wouldn't work! Rather, it means that we must join our hearts to the words sung or spoken by the priest, that we must assume an attentive posture, put aside the missalette and sing our parts with gusto and sincerity.

In the end, eucharist is what our life as Christians is all about. In suffering or in joy, in confusion or routine, our life is always to be praise, always to be thanksgiving, always to be a sharing of God's abundance with those in need.



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Text by Elizabeth Hoffman. Art by Chuck Ludeke.



Worship



Celebration of the Sacrament of the **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

**Sunday, February 11, 2024
during the 8:00 a.m. Mass**

The Church states that "Great care . . . should be taken to see that those . . . whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age receive the sacrament (*Pastoral Care of the Sick*, no. 8).

Any baptized Catholic, over the age of seven, may receive the sacrament if he or she has reasonably judged the seriousness of the illness and remains free of serious sin.

Please call the parish office at 773.324.2626
if you desire to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing.

Pre-registration is required.



Lenten Soup and Substance



SAVE THE DATE

St. Thomas the Apostle

Parish Hall

February 16 and 23

March 01, 15, and 22

PREPARING FOR EASTER

Each year, every church throughout the world purchases a new paschal candle, which is blessed and lit at the Easter Vigil. This candle, a symbol of the light of the risen Christ, is used throughout the Easter Season as a reminder of the great joy of the resurrection and the light of Christ we are to radiate. It is also used at baptisms to illuminate the light of Christ we receive in the waters of rebirth. Finally, it is lit at funerals and placed at the head of the casket or near the urn as a reminder of the light of Christ the deceased shared with the world.

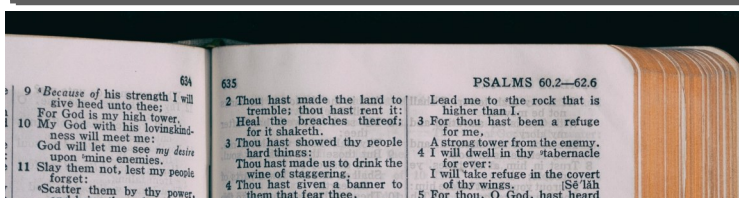
This year, we'd like to purchase a beautifully handcrafted candle from Martin Marklin, whose lifework has been the promotion of the liturgical renewal, especially in fostering beauty, but we need your help. Martin sustainably raises bees on his Vermont farm with his family and carefully harvests the beeswax and honey to create these original handmade candles and nourish his customers.

If you'd like to contribute to the fund to help purchase the parish's paschal candle and the candles we will present to the newly baptized at the Easter Vigil, please call or stop by the parish office.



Marklin

Artist: Martin Marklin of Marklin Candle Co.
Photo from company website. All rights reserved.
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Faith FORMATION

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Comfort the Sorrowful

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons.

(Mark 1: 32-34a)

Job 7: 1-4, 6-7
Job's First Reply

1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23
Paul's Recompense

Mark 1: 29-39
Cure of Peter's Mother in Law and Other Miracles



ADULTS: When have you felt the sadness of Job? When have you felt the joy of those who witnessed the healing works of Jesus?

CHILDREN: What could you do this week to comfort someone who is sad?

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION MONTHLY THEME ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

As we prepare for the 100th anniversary of the dedication of our church this October, we pause this month reflect on the beauty of our space and the way it invites us to worship God.

Tucked in the alcove next to the St. Joseph Chapel and the organ console is a memorial to the parishioners of St. Thomas the Apostle who died in both World War I and World War II. These memorials are arranged on and adjacent to the Pietà by Alfeo Faggi. Unlike other renditions of the Pietà, this rendition has Jesus situated in the same position as Mary, so that "seated in her lap, his body seems to merge with hers."*

This week, take time to examine this statue and pray for all men and women who have given their lives in service to our country, particularly those from our St.. Thomas the Apostle family.

**The Art and Architecture of St. Thomas the Apostle Church: A Guided Tour, written by Dr. Sarah Bond, Art Historian and Parishioner, pg. 14. To purchase a copy of this work, contact the Parish Office.*

The Priesthood of the Faithful

MASS DEPENDS on the participation of the priesthood of the faithful, according to the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (5). "The celebration of the Eucharist is the action of the whole Church." Baptized Christians share in the royal priesthood of God's people. Everyone offers a spiritual sacrifice together with the priest in union with Christ.

"For this people is the People of God, purchased by Christ's Blood, gathered together by the Lord, nourished by his word" (ibid.). When we assemble at church, we come as God's own, a people loved so much that Christ shed blood for us. We gather as people of faith, as people God loves. We listen to God's Word—food for this chosen people.

This people is "called to present to God the prayers of the entire human family" (ibid.). We partake in the General Intercessions, or the Universal Prayer.

We are "a people that gives thanks in Christ for the mystery of salvation by offering his Sacrifice" (ibid.). The priest does not offer this sacrifice alone. All of us do. We all give thanks. Scratch the skin of any Christian and you should find thanksgiving in the blood. We offer the Eucharistic Sacrifice with the priest, giving thanks.

Finally, it is a people "that is brought together in unity by Communion in the Body and Blood of Christ" (ibid.). God's priestly people reach perfection in Communion.

"This people, though holy in its origin, nevertheless grows constantly in holiness by conscious, active, and fruitful participation in the mystery of the Eucharist" (ibid.). When we gather for Mass, we do not merely watch. We do not merely read along. We participate actively and consciously in the mystery around us. And we grow in holiness.

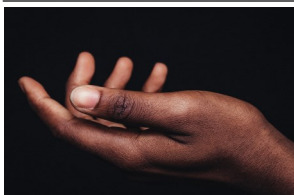
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Written by Paul Turner. GIRM © 2011, USCCB.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

PRESCHOOL FAMILY FAITH FORMATION Sunday, February 11, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION Sunday, February 25, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

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



OFFERTORY

January 27 & January 28

Thank you for your donations. Due to the bulletin deadline 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.

St. Vincent de Paul Upcoming Events!

We NEED new members who can commit to roughly 4 hours a month to attend biweekly meetings after the 10 am Mass (2nd and 4th Sundays) and to go on a home visit or two a month to help discern the requested assistance from our friends in need. If you want to see more of how the Society runs, please attend the District VI meeting we will be hosting at St. Thomas. Please send an email to rsprudz@yahoo.com to reserve a seat coffee and light breakfast items will be served.

If you can donate time to assist with our annual sit-down dinner, please let us know. We'll need help setting up tables and chairs and decorating on Saturday afternoon, volunteers to serve food to our guests, and assist in the clean up and breaking down of tables and chairs on Sunday. Please email rsprudz@yahoo.com if you are able and interested in helping.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

Our THANK YOU Hospitality for our parishioners after both Masses

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.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED for setting up on Fridays 3:00 pm–4:30 pm and food distribution on Saturdays 9:30 am–1:30 pm. For further information and to sign up, please contact Margaret Mitchell at mmm17@uchicago.edu.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council 17129

The Knights of Columbus invites all the join them for the praying of the rosary every Friday immediately following the 8a mass.



All are welcome!

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

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.'"
- Mark 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus takes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we are given the graces needed to do what He wishes us to do. Praying before acting is a great habit to develop.



Events

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Collecting Last Year's Palms

No later than February 12, drop off your old, blessed palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday Mass to the parish office between 8AM and 4PM or leave them in the sacristy after weekend Masses. These will be burned and used on Ash Wednesday.

Burning Palms

Join us Tuesday, **February 13 around 9AM** (following the 8:30 Mass) in the church's parking lot for a short prayer for burning the palms to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.

FEBRUARY 14, '24

ASH

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

WORD SERVICE

10:00 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

2:30 p.m.

MASS

7:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m.
(with school)

7:00 p.m.



Sunday Hospitality

PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 11, 2024
8:45 a.m. to Noon

Sponsored by the STA

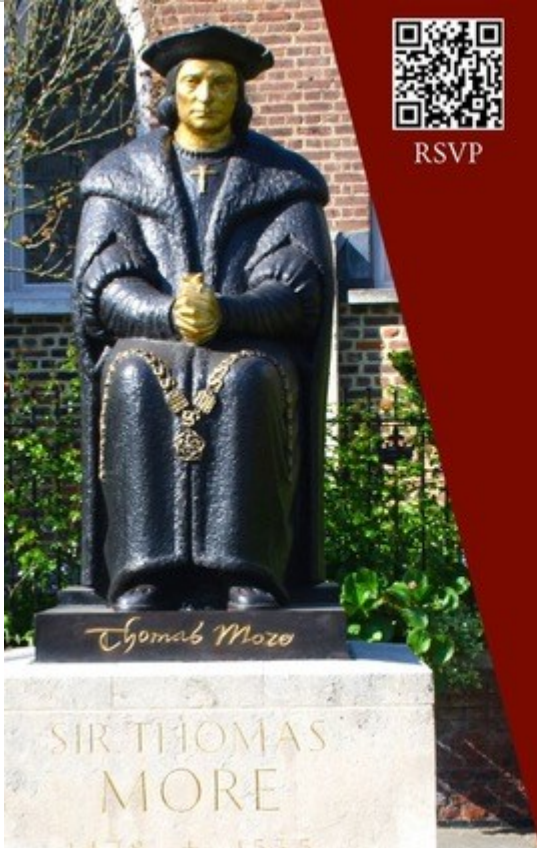


Knights of
Columbus®



Events

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP



RSVP

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

Red Mass

Saturday, February 10

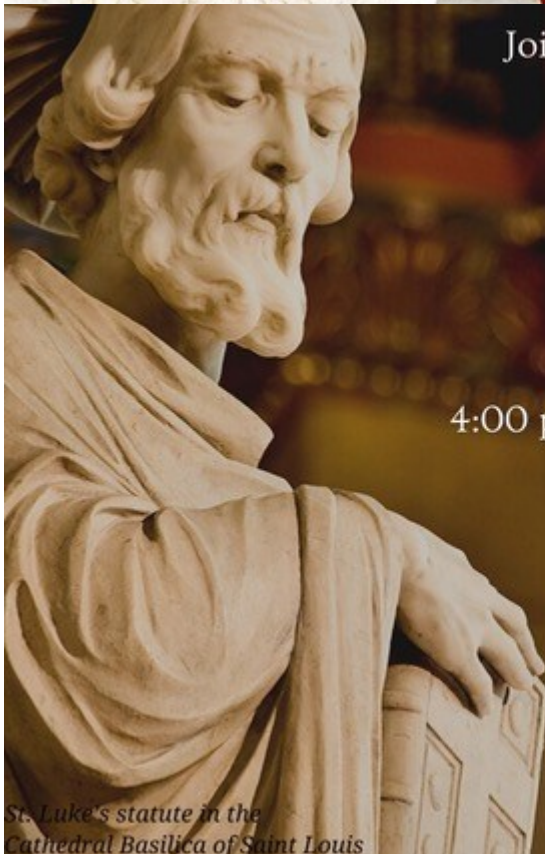
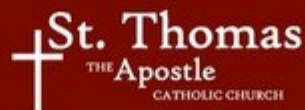
4:00 pm Eucharistic Celebration

Bp. Jeffrey Grob, JCD, Presider & Homilist

5:00 pm Reception & Lecture

Dr. Lu Ann Homza, "When Witches Litigate"

6:30 End



St. Luke's statue in the
Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis

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

White Mass

Saturday, February 17

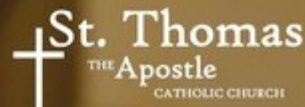
4:00 pm Eucharistic Celebration (Bond Chapel)

5:00 pm Reception & Lecture (Swift Hall)

6:30 End



RSVP



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

School

Strong Foundation... Future Success!



We are excited to inform you about the enrollment process for St. Thomas the Apostle School. Our school is dedicated to providing the highest quality education to our students in a supportive and nurturing environment. We offer a comprehensive curriculum that focuses on academic excellence, spiritual growth, and character development.

To enroll your child in our school, please visit our website and complete the online application.

We understand that choosing the right school for your child is an important decision, and we encourage you to schedule a tour of our school. During the tour, you will have the opportunity to meet our faculty and staff, see our facilities, and learn more about our curriculum.

Thank you for considering St. Thomas the Apostle School for your child's education. We look forward to welcoming you to our school community.



Dates to Remember

2/16 No School-
Teacher Professional
Development Day

2/19 No School-
Presidents Day

2/26- Third Trimester
Starts

2/29-Half Day-Parent
Teacher Conferences



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.