St. Thomas the Apostle

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

BEMADE CLEAN.

GOD'S PEOPLE IN EXTRAORDINARY VARIETY
—— SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 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 THE

Pastor's Desk

Lent: Love as Sacrifice

The irony is not lost on me that in this year of our Lord 2024, Ash Wednesday falls on February 14 which is Valentine's Day. Two days that at first glance are seemingly at odds with each other; a day when chocolate is given as an expression of one's feelings is the same chocolate that another struggles to give up in a way of growing in holiness.

Champagne glasses that would clink together over a white tablecloth dinner is the same alcohol that another gives up as a means of sacrifice and temperance to honor these days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In any other year when these yearly commemorations fall on different days of the calendar, one can fully enter the ritual, experience, and tradition of each day without violating the other's.

This Ash Wednesday and Lent, how do we reconcile these two dates that are seemingly at odds with one another? Very simply, the commonality on this day is *love*. However, the love that is expressed is not a love that is decadent, lavish, and excessive, but rather a *true* love that is a deep abiding love requires sacrifice.

What does it mean that love requires sacrifice? As we examine the various types of love in classical Greek philosophy and reignited in our Catholic ethos by C.S. Lewis' 1960 book, *The Four Loves*, we see the gradations of love. What we are called to celebrate this Lent is firstly the love of God which is the truest form of love. Other forms of love are one that, at some level, have a selfish quality about them. The passions of eros serve our own ego and passions. The mania of desire fixates our desires on what we want versus what God wants for us.

However, the deepest type of love, agape, is a love that is not self-serving, but fully giving and sacrificial. This sacrificial love is based in God and "wills the good of the other." [1]

To reconcile Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday is a day to realize that true love requires sacrifice. Looking firstly at the person of Jesus Christ we see how his love is sacrificial the way He gives up His own life in love for all of humanity on the Cross. Sacrificial love on Valentine's Day is expressed when we put our own desires out of the way and seek the good of the one who we love.

When the ashes are marked on our forehead with the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." this invitation is to a relationship that is deeper than our own wants and desires. Not only does it draw us into the mystery of the sacrificial love of God, but as we hear it this Valentine's Day it is an invitation to live that sacrificial love daily with the people we love and who love us.

Anyone who has truly been in love knows that it's not easy, but perhaps this February 14th is a chance to explore the depths of love in a new way with the One who is true love and with the one you love.

Just so that love doesn't only last a day, Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are gateway days to remind us of something much deeper.

Happy Ash Wednesday and Happy Valentine's Day; both are days of love.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Trail

[1] Catechism of the Catholic Church #1766

[2] Roman Missal, Ash Wednesday







THIS 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 🕆 Dr. Sarah Wright

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: 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 9:8-15 ◆ Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10) ◆1 Peter 3:18-22 ◆ Mark 1:12-15

DAILY READINGS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

Please remember those listed below in your prayers this week.

MONDAY, February 12

Readings: Jas 1:1-11 | Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 | Mk 8:11-13 Mk 5:1-20

- **†** Richard West
- **†** Joe Madison

TUESDAY, February 13

Readings: Jas 1:12-18 | Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 | Mk 8:14-21 **†** Dr Sarah Wright

WEDNESDAY, February 14 Ash Wednesday

Readings: J1 2:12-18 | 2 Cor 5:20-6:2 | Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 | Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

† Marshall Bynum Jr.

† Joe Madison

THURSDAY, February 15

Readings: Dt 30:15-20 | Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 | Lk 9:22-25

- Patricia Marris
- **†** Elcedo & Hamilton Lawrence
 - **†** Godfrey & Florence Cahn

FRIDAY, February 16

Readings: Is 58:1-9a | Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 | Mk 9:14-15

Bobbie Duff, (Birthday Blessings) Maria Ika Martinez, (Birthday Blessings)

SATURDAY, February 17

The Seven Founders of the Order of Servites, religious

Readings: Is 58:9b-14 | Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 | Lk 5:27-32 John Moore, (Birthday Blessings)

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, Mavis Willis, Marie Bijou Wong, Joan Yedinak.





Worship



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, February 12 Always by Our Side

Lent gives us the opportunity to deepen our relationship with God. James teaches us what unwavering faith can accomplish, while the Pharisees demonstrate how people of little or no faith live. James shows us how faith can overcome challenges that many of us know wholeheartedly and firsthand. We may know people who have no relationship with God. These people need assurance, "a sign" to believe. Let us be that sign. Today's readings: James 1:1–11; Psalm 119:67, 71, 72, 75, 76; Mark 8:11–13.

Tuesday, February 13 A Spiritual Journey

Have you ever been on a family trip when one member's sudden exclamation of "I forgot to pack!" is followed by another's reassuring response, "Don't stress, we'll figure something out"? Something similar can happen along our faith journey. In this scenario, God is that voice telling us not to worry, that he will help us prevail. God will give us the fortitude for a spiritual Lenten journey. Today's readings: James 1:12-18; Psalm 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mark 8:14-21.

Wednesday, February 14 Symbol of Life

Today the ashes on our foreheads announce to the world that we acknowledge our sin and have faith in the saving cross of Christ. Despite the visibility of the ashes, they are meant to be a sign of conversion rather than an emblem of pride. Matthew encourages us to go about our lives without flaunting our good deeds. It is enough that we know what we have done for the love of neighbor. Today's readings: Joel 2:12–18; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.

Thursday, February 15 Perfect Role Model

Who are your role models? As children, we may name a professional athlete or our parents. As we age and our faith grows along with us, we may begin to be inspired by saints. Today's Gospel reminds us of our greatest role model, Jesus Christ. Jesus gives us the template for a holy life. He also warns us that his path is not easy and that we must help one another along the journey. Our goal is to continue Jesus' mission. Today's readings: Deuteronomy 30:15–20; Psalm 1:1–2; 3, 4, 6; Luke 9:22-25.

Friday, February 16 Caring for Others

Look within and discern whether your external actions reflect your internal thoughts. Do you see a relationship between the way you observe the rules of fasting and abstinence and the way you treat others? Is God pleased that a Church law has been observed when you have been unkind to someone you find annoying? When experiencing a problem with another, ask God to fill you with love toward your neighbor. Strive to live a holy life not for recognition by others but for your love for God. Today's readings: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6a, 18-19; Matthew 9:14-15.

Saturday, February 17 Saying Yes

Many of us have heard the saying "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called." In today's Gospel, Jesus called Levi, and Levi followed without hesitation. The other apostles followed the same pattern. Each of them left everything behind to join Jesus' ministry. How can you act as a missionary disciple, inspiring others to do what is needed to follow Jesus? Today's readings: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6: Luke 5:27-32.



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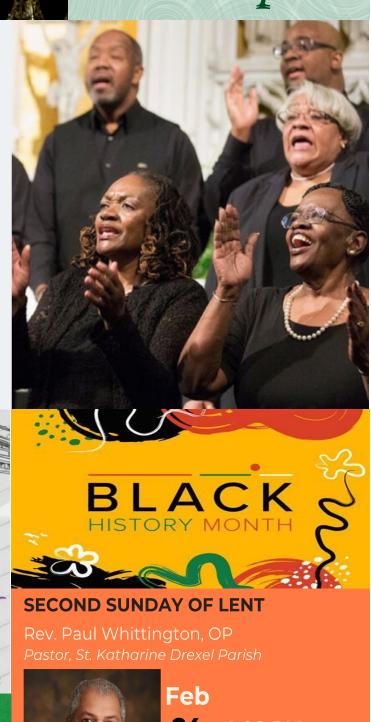
Worship

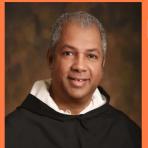
February

Black History Month

Black History Month is a celebration which commemorates Black Americans' achievements, honors their contributions to the United States and the world, and recognizes their crucial role in U.S. history. In 1926, this celebration was created by Harvardtrained historian Carter G. Woodson, During the nation's bicentennial in 1976, President Gerald R. Ford extended the celebration to a month. More information about Black History Month can be found here.







24 4:00 PM

25 8:00 AM 10:00 AM

Distinguished **Preachers Series 2024**



Faith

FORMATION

UESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Models of Christ

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11: 1)

> Leviticus 13: 1–2, 44–46 On Leprosy

1 Corinthians 10: 31-11: 1 Imitation of Christ

> Mark 1: 40-45 Healing of a Leper

ADULTS: Would you have the courage to tell others to do as you do in order to be a Christian? Why or why not?

CHILDREN: What can you do this week to be an example to others?

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.

reminds the faithful of the sacred, the Eucharist, of the home after the tragic fire. Ashes enrich the which is stored in the tabernacle below. Drawing compost heap. Ashes of the faithful departed fill inspiration from Revelation 21: 9 - 22: 5, the top carvings depict the Heavenly City, the New Jerusalem. At the top of the baldacchino, the Risen Christ stands with arms outstretched, offering blessing and reminding us of his crucifixion.*

and discover the rich treasury of images it contains. What do you notice? What image, design, or style attracts you?

*To learn more about the baldacchino, contact the Parish Office to purchase The Art and Architecture of St. Thomas the Apostle Church: A Guided Tour, written by Dr. Sarah Bond, art historian and parishioner.

Ashes

"YOU'VE GOT dirt on your forehead."

We're likely to hear those words from thoughtful friends who display their intimate concern as well as their religious absentmindedness when we go out in public after Mass on Ash Wednesday.

The Distribution of Ashes after the homily replaces the Penitential Act at the beginning of Mass. Instead of merely "calling to mind our sins," we receive a very public reminder of our sinfulness.

We hear: "Repent and believe in the Gospel," or, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

But it wasn't always that way. In the early Church, only public sinners wore ashes. These sinners convened regularly to prepare for their reconciliation at a parish service and they formed—well, what we now call "support groups." As penitents, they used to wear ashes on their heads or in their clothes. Symbols of human mortality, ashes represented their complete dependence on the mercy of God. In the Middle Ages, the support groups dwindled, but sinners remained strong in numbers. So Pope Urban II ordered up the first Ash Wednesday in 1091. Ashes were for everybody, and we've been rubbing dirt on our foreheads ever since.

Dirt is something we're constantly washing off children and ourselves. Only in church do we deliberately put dirt on the most public part of our bodies, our foreheads.

Ashes are what's left in the now-cold fireplace. The baldacchino, or canopy, over the high altar Ashes heat the barbecue. Ashes are all that remains commemorative urns. Ashes represent destruction, refuse, and waste, but they hint at new life.

Long before recycling became popular, the church got into the act on Ash Wednesday. Ever wonder what happens to those Palm Branches left over from last Holy Week? They've been burned into ash, This week, take time to explore the baldacchino stuffed into bags and now await the chance to dirty your forehead on Ash Wednesday this year. The symbol of Christ's glory has become the symbol of our sin.

> On Ash Wednesday, you're not just another dirty face. No, you've tossed yourself into the recycling bin of Lent, ready for renewal this Easter.

> > Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Gestures, Postures, and Customs of the Liturgy © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

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

PRESCHOOL FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

Sunday, March 3, 2024 | 9:00 a.m.-9:45 a.m.

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSIONS

Sundays, March 3 and 17, 2024 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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

DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES AT STA

Procedural changes to the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday at STA reflect a deeper understanding of the significance of this solemn day in the liturgical calendar. Here are some key points and the rationale behind them:

1. SHIFT FROM CONVENIENCE TO MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT:

- In the past, parishioners were able to stop by the parish office to "get" ashes at their convenience. This year, this option is not available.
- The decision is based on a deeper understanding of the Church's guidelines and the spiritual significance of Ash Wednesday.

2. REFERENCE TO THE **BOOK OF BLESSINGS:**

-The change is rooted in chapter 52 of the Book of Blessings, which specifically cites the guidelines for the blessing and distribution of ashes. The guidelines state that the blessing and distribution of ashes typically occurs during Mass. When that is not possible, a shorter celebration of the Word of God is to be celebrated.

3. EMPHASIS ON PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD:

- -This change underscores the importance of hearing and reflecting on the proclamation of the Word at the beginning of Lent. It is Christ proclaimed, the Word made flesh, that calls us to conversion.
- -It highlights that the reception of ashes is not merely a perfunctory ritual but tied to the proclamation of the Word; it is a physical sign of Jesus' call to repentance and renewal.

4. Purposeful Lenten Journey:

-It encourages parishioners to pause, reflect, and respond to the call for repentance and conversion, as articulated by the Prophet Joel: "return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12).

5. Addressing Societal Trends:

- -This change critiques the prevailing "on-demand" culture by urging us, the baptized, to embrace an intentional approach to the Lenten journey as we prepare for the renewal of baptism at the Easter Vigil.
- -It invites individuals to embrace the spiritual disciplines and rhythms of the liturgical season rather than seeking convenience or shortcuts.







Stewardship

SHARING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

January 27 & January 28

Offertory	\$3,473.00
Give Central	\$3,054.00
Funeral	\$500.00
Misc Donations	\$520.00
Building Fund	\$26.00
Candles	\$145.00

Total \$7,718.00

Thank, you!

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

OFFERTORY

February 3 & February 4

Offertory	\$6,809.05
Give Central	\$4,635.00
Building Fund	\$575.00
Mass Offering	\$100.00
Candles	\$345.20

Total \$12,464.25

Thank you!

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

A Tax-Savvy Way to Support the Annual Catholic Appeal

One way you can reclaim God's promise and once again take up your responsibility is by making a direct gift of securities and mutual funds that have appreciated in value and have been held for more

When you donate appreciated securities or mutual funds to the Annual Catholic Appeal, you can reduce or even eliminate federal capital gains taxes on the transfer. You may also be entitled to a federal income tax charitable deduction based on the fair market value of the securities at the time of the transfer. For more information about donating stock or securities, please contact your financial advisor.

To make a stock donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal, please visit archchicago.org/stockgiftform and complete the electronic Letter of Intention form.

STA Now Accepts VENMO

Catholic Bishop of Chicago Corp. Sol

@StThomasHydePark



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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.

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

All are welcome!

the 8a mass.

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

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He's not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps us from putting other "gods" (like our pride, ego, money and possessions) before God. Before making a decision, ask yourself, "I'm I going this for the glory of God or for the glory of me?"



Lenten Soup and Substance



St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Hall

All are welcome!

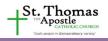
5:30 p.m. soup service begins

6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross; soup continues

6:30 p.m. soup continues and Lenten reflection

February 16	God's Call	by Vince Lane
February 23	Trust in the Lord	by Bronwyn Lodato
March 01	Finding God in the Community	by Jacqueline and Marshall Callery
March 15	TBD	TBD
March 22	Waiting	by Joe Tomas-Lemna

7:25 p.m. Closing prayer







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

WEDNESDAY **SCHEDULE**

WORD SERVICE

10:00 a.m. 20 min service

12:00 p.m. 20 min service

2:30 p.m. 20 min service

MASS

7:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. (with school)

7:00 p.m.



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





St. Thomas the Apostle School

Strong Foundation... Future Success!



That's great to hear that Catholic Schools' Week was a success at St. Thomas the Apostle! Catholic Schools Week is an annual event celebrated by Catholic schools across the country.

It is a time to showcase the unique and valuable contributions that Catholic schools make to their communities and to

celebrate the important role that Catholic education plays in the lives of students.

During Catholic Schools Week, students, faculty, and staff participate in a variety of activities and events. These may include Mass, service projects, open houses, and special assemblies. It is a time for students to reflect on the values of their faith and the importance of their education.



At St. Thomas the Apostle, it sounds like Catholic Schools' Week was a great success. I hope that the students, faculty, and staff all had a wonderful time participating in the various events and activities and that everyone was able to deepen their understanding of what it means to be a part of a Catholic 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**



Facebook: @stapostleschool Instagram: @stthomasapostle

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church & School

General Information

Church Address

5472 S. Kimbark Avenue Chicago, IL 60615-5297

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

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

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Matthew Merz, coordinator of music ministry mmerz@stapostleparish.org

Rosina Hendrickson,

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> 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

School Address 5467 S. Woodlawn Avenue

Chicago, IL 60615-5299

School Offices

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

www.stapostleschool.com admissions@stapostleschool.com

MASS SCHEDULE

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Sunday:

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

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.