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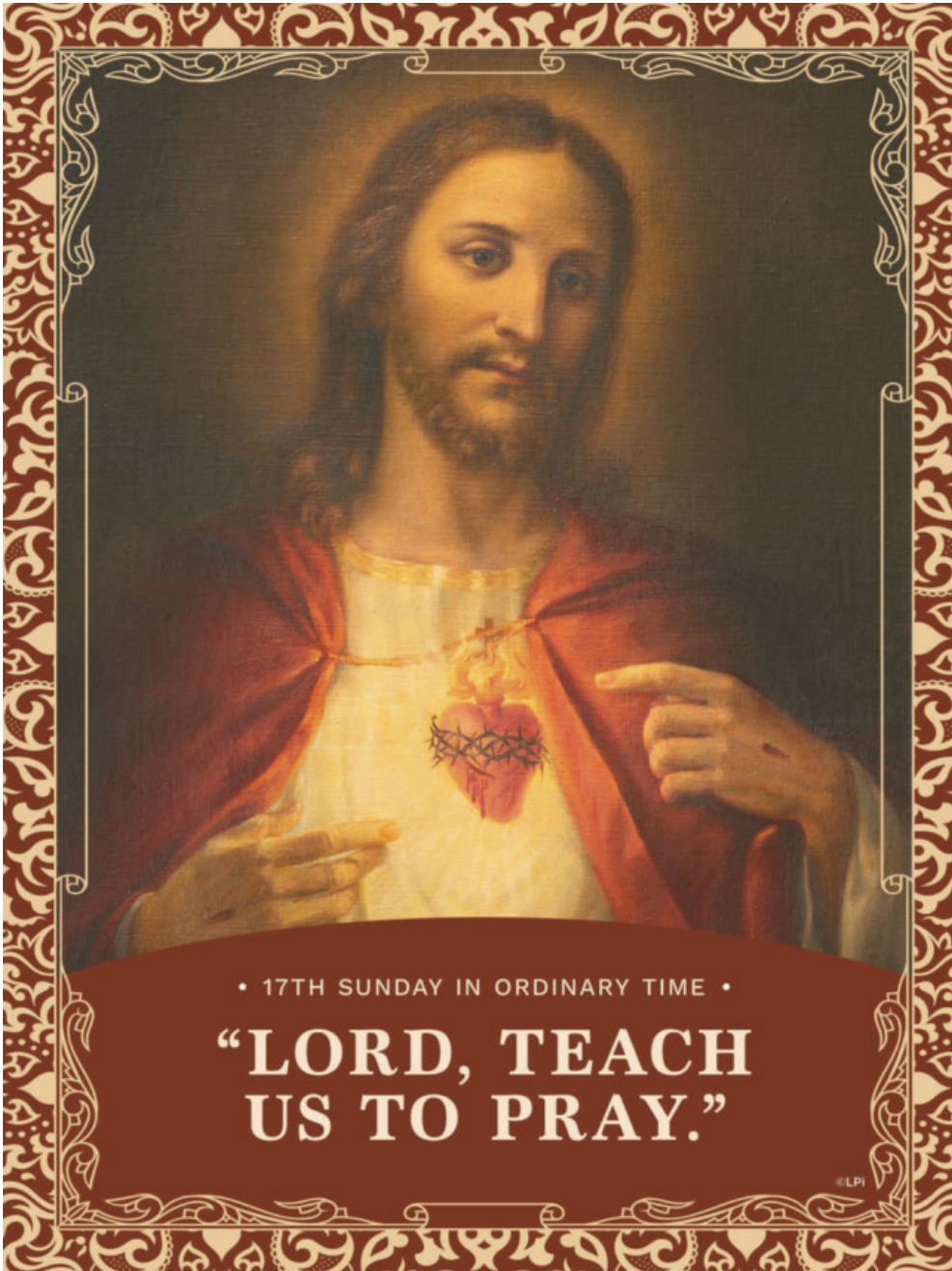
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# St. Thomas the Apostle Church



## SERVED BY

**Rev. Matthew Duclos, Pastor**  
[matthew.duclos@rcda.org](mailto:matthew.duclos@rcda.org)

**Dcn. Al Manzella, Deacon**  
[amanz31999@aol.com](mailto:amanz31999@aol.com)

## MASS SCHEDULE

Monday: 7:30 am  
 Tuesday: 12:15 pm with  
 11:30 am Reconciliation  
 Thursday: 7:30 am  
 Friday: 12:15 pm with  
 1:00 pm Adoration  
 Saturday: 5:00 pm with  
 4:00 pm Reconciliation  
 Sunday: 7:30 am | 10:30 am | 5:00 pm

† Reconciliation also by appointment.

† Baptisms, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA), and Matrimony please contact the Parish Office for info.

† Anointing of the Sick offered the first Tues. of the month after 12:15 pm Mass or by request.

† Please call the parish office to notify of persons who would like a visit or home Communion.

## CONTACT US

35 Adams Place, Delmar, NY 12054  
 518-439-4951

[office@stthomas-church.org](mailto:office@stthomas-church.org)

Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

## MISSION STATEMENT

To proclaim and celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ our Lord in a community of faith, to respond to the Spirit by recognizing the gifts of each individual and by encouraging their use in Christian service to others and to spread the Word to others by the witness of our lives in order to encourage growth in our relationships with God and with one another.

## PARISH TRUSTEES

Joseph V. DiStefano and Robert Ricchiuti

JULY 27, 2025

# PARISH MINISTRIES

St. Thomas Parish,  
I'm guessing one of the most popular prayers, if not the most popular prayer, is the Our Father. It's said at each Mass, multiple times in the Rosary, and several times throughout the day in the Liturgy of the Hours. Most of us learn this prayer as young children. But what is its meaning to you now compared to when you first learned it?

We hear this prayer in today's Gospel from St. Luke in response to a disciple asking Jesus how to pray. Maybe we've had this same question before too, Lord, how do I pray? It's an important question, and that answer probably changes over time. From rote prayers to spontaneous prayers to prayers in private and prayers with the community. Prayer is the #1 most important thing to develop a relationship with God. We talk to God in prayer, and we listen to God in prayer.

But Jesus doesn't end with the Our Father, he continues with a story. Imagine, Jesus says, you go to a friend's house at midnight looking for bread. At first, the friend says no, he's already in bed, the kids are asleep. But if you keep knocking, not because you're a nuisance, but because you're bold and persistent, he'll eventually get up and give you what you need.

That image of persistence and trust is exactly what Jesus wants us to carry into our own prayer life. It connects back to the line in the Our Father about "daily bread." Prayer is not just about big, dramatic moments. It's about the daily act of showing up before God, trusting God will provide what we need, even if the answer comes later than we hoped or in a form we didn't expect.

My thanks go to Fr. John and Fr. Tom for their coverage here last weekend. I had an incredibly challenging and beautiful weekend at the retreat in Wisconsin listening and ministering to those who have been hurt by someone in the Church. I'm very grateful to the facilitators of the retreat from Awake who do so much work to prepare for that weekend and make it so meaningful.

This week at the parish looks pretty routine, not too much on the calendar. Remember:

1. Make Mass a priority on vacation! [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) is a very helpful resource to find local parishes and times.
2. Our Flocknote donation platform offers an easy way to setup recurring donations through a credit card or bank account. Our website has some simple instruction to help:  
[www.stthomas-church.org/giving](http://www.stthomas-church.org/giving). Thank you!

A reminder to all families to register your children for Discipleship Formation classes in the fall. Here's the best place for that: [www.stthomas-church.org/formation](http://www.stthomas-church.org/formation).

Peace to you,

**FR. MATT**

## CREATION CARE

### MUSIC AND CREATION

As summer days slide slowly to fall, share the beauty of music and Creation with family and friends on Aug. 24 from 1-4pm at Bender Melon Farm Preserve. Listen to local musicians playing as you explore Creation along the Preserve's trail. To learn more about this FREE event sponsored by Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, go to: <https://www.mohawkhudson.org/trailtunes>

### WHEN WATER IS SCARCE

Follow this link to read a story that underscores the importance of finding ways to ensure safe water for all in God's Creation <https://thewaterproject.org/community/2025/06/19/what-life-is-like-when-water-is-scarce-a-personal-story-of-water-rationing/>

## PARISH PICNIC

### NEXT MEETING

The annual St. Thomas Parish Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 21 at the Elm Avenue Park. Our planning committee will meet on July 28 at 7pm in the Gathering Hall. For more information on joining the planning committee, please contact Paul Supple at [paulmsupple@gmail.com](mailto:paulmsupple@gmail.com).

## PRAYER CHAIN

Members of our Prayer Chain Ministry pray on an ongoing basis for those referred to them, regardless of need. Please contact Pam Seward, 518-439-7845, to have someone added to the prayer chain or become a volunteer. These calls are confidential.

## GET IN TOUCH

### PARISH STAFF

**Patricia Holm,**

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**John Vasto,** Music Director  
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**Colleen Harrigan,** Discipleship Formation Secretary  
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**Patti Staerker,** Coordinator, Elementary Discipleship Formation  
[pstaerker@stthomas-church.org](mailto:pstaerker@stthomas-church.org)

**Rose Ann Garry,** Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Discipleship Formation

**Jennifer Curry,** Co-Coordinator, Middle/High School Discipleship Formation

**Mary Ann Hospodar,** Coordinator, Youth Ministry MS/HS  
Faith Formation and Youth Ministry email: [HOPE@stthomas-church.org](mailto:HOPE@stthomas-church.org)



# PARISH MINISTRIES



## CATHOLIC MOM'S FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

### AUGUST 9

The next Catholic Moms Faith & Fellowship gathering is set for Saturday Aug. 9, 10am-noon in the Lower Lounge. All moms are welcome!

## DISCIPLESHIP FORMATION & YOUTH MINISTRY

### SHARE THE GOOD NEWS WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS!



Register for 2025-2026 Discipleship Formation Classes today! Our Confirmation Prep Program is a two year program. Confirmed in the Spirit Registration is also being accepted for all Confirmed high school students. Please consider remaining involved in our parish community and grow your relationship with the Lord! Reserve your spot using the link on our parish home-page or using our QR code! We look forward to accompanying you on your faith journey!

### SUMMER H.O.P.E. OPPORTUNITIES...

are on our Youth Ministry Discipleship Page. Consider granting a birthday wish, greeting and sorting at an upcoming Tuesday Drive or assisting with child care with our MOMS Group! Or pick a tag from our HOPE Tree in the Gathering Hall and shine His light for all to see! Thank you for making a difference!

## ALZHEIMER VOLUNTEER CARE TEAM

### READY FOR A NEW ADVENTURE THIS FALL?

Join the St. Thomas Alzheimer Volunteer Care Team Ministry! Our team works in pairs to give respite and social engagement to people with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. We support caregivers so they can take a much-needed break. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! Non-medical support only. Training is provided and you never have to visit alone. For more information about volunteering or utilizing our services, text or call Mary Coleman at 518-250-9880 or email [mary.coleman@sphp.com](mailto:mary.coleman@sphp.com). Join us at a Care Team meeting in the Gathering Space to learn more on 7/28 or 9/15 at 4:30pm. Care Teams are led by Eddy Alzheimer Services.

## TUESDAY DRIVES

### GENTLE REMINDER

Tuesday Drives are still on summer break! Our next drive is Tuesday Aug. 12 for our friends at the South End Children's Café for school supplies, hygiene items and healthy snacks with NO PEANUTS.

## PARISH OFFICE

### WELCOME TO THE WELCOME TABLE

You are invited to stop by the Welcome Table at the main entrance to Church. There you will find Mass intention sign-ups, parish registration forms, forms for proof of baptism/confirmation, & devotional booklets. Venmo envelopes, seasonal, & flower donation envelopes are also on hand. Or just stop by to say hello. If we can't answer your question, we will find someone "in the know" to help!

## STEWARDSHIP

### WEEKLY OFFERING

#### JULY 12-13

Weekly Collection: \$14,696.00

E-giving: \$3,527.00

Loose Cash Gifts: \$2,319.86

Tithe (5% of Off.): \$734.80

Number of Gifts: 287

**Special Collection** this weekend is for Peter's Pence which unites us & Catholics around the world more closely with the Holy Father in two ways: it supports the structures of the Holy See through which the Pope governs the Church as well as his charitable efforts to assist victims of war, oppression natural disasters, and others most in need. Please be generous in next week's Collection supporting the Holy Father as a witness of charity to those who are suffering.

### AFTER MASS REFRESHMENTS

Spread joy and hospitality to our fellow parishioners after the 10:30am Sunday Mass (and potentially other Masses if we get enough volunteers). The ministry involves setting up and staffing tables with beverages (coffee, tea, hot chocolate and juice) as well as homemade snacks. The time commitment is from 9:30am till about noon (including you attending the 10:30am Mass). There's no need to commit to any date or set of dates - you can host once a year or once a month - whatever works for you. Training is provided. If you have any questions or would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Jay Buhr at 518-331-0541.

## EDUCATIONAL, SPIRITUAL & SOCIAL EVENTS

**Sunday Hospitality:** July 27, 11 am

**Alzheimer's Care Team Meeting:** July 28, 4:30 pm | Gathering Hall | See description on page 3

**Parish Picnic Committee Meeting:** July 28, 7 pm | Gathering Hall

**Monthly Evening Adoration:** July 28, 7:30 pm | Church

**Young Adult Group "518 Frassati":** July 29, 7 pm | Gathering Hall | Ages 21-39

**Rosary:** July 30, 11 am | Mary Chapel

**Eucharistic Adoration:** August 1, 1 pm | Church

**Prayer Vigil for Peace:** August 2, noon | Peace Pole | All are welcome, 15 minutes of guided prayer

For more information visit our website!



## MASS INTENTIONS

### MONDAY, JULY 28 | 7:30 AM

Frank Daley (8th Anniversary)  
requested by Catherine  
Marie Pisani  
requested by her cousin,  
Marilyn

### TUESDAY, JULY 29 | 12:15 PM

Pam Nero and John LaMena  
requested by Donna Spagnola  
George Bragle  
requested by Kathleen Bragle and  
family

### THURSDAY, JULY 31 | 7:30 AM

Domenica McEntire  
requested by Fulvia Pizzitola  
Amelia Betros  
requested by Ellen Roberts

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 | 12:15 PM

Memorial Fund  
Sacred Heart of Jesus  
requested by Gladys Mwesigwa

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 2 | 5:00 PM

Virginia Fisher  
requested by Carol and Bill Roe  
Heidi Cook  
requested by a friend

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 | 7:30 AM

Delores Seitz  
requested by Fran Balnys  
Richard Mahlstedt  
requested by Joan and Lisa Meyer

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 | 10:30 AM

Delores Betor  
requested by her son and family  
Helen Yelle  
requested by the Marlow family  
Michael Ferraro  
requested by his sister, Jill

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 3 | 5:00 PM

For the People

## COMMUNITY GOOD NEWS

### NEW LIFE MATERNITY SLICE FOR LIFE GOLF OUTING

Like to play golf? Here's a chance to play golf and help a good cause at the same time. Join us for our Slice for Life Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 6, 2025 at The Sycamore Golf Club in Ravenna. You can find all the details at and sign up at: <https://newlifematernity.org/events>

### WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Jesus calls us to love one another. Deepen your communication, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending the next upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. Dates to sign up are:

August 15-17, 2025 at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT  
September 19-21 in Huntington, NY  
Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsors a variety of in-person and virtual marriage experiences, some on weekends and some on seven weekdays. Couples explore their relationship with each other, God, and the Church. Registration is limited; there is a \$100 application fee. For more information or to apply, call Frank & Margie Pearson at 860-337-2447 or <https://www.mectw.org/>.

### YOUNG ADULT PAINT, SIP, AND DIP

Come and have a fun night of Paint, Sip, and Dip on Sunday, August 3 from 4-6 pm at Christ the King Church, Knights Chapel located at 20 Sumter Ave, Albany. Ages 21-39 are welcome. Paint, canvases, and dips will be provided. Please bring your own beverages and RSVP by July 31 by emailing Nadine at [annabina-dine1@gmail.com](mailto:annabina-dine1@gmail.com) to make sure we have enough supplies for everyone attending!

### DIOCESAN MARRIAGE JUBILEE

The Annual Diocesan Marriage Jubilee Celebration will be held on Sunday, September 14th at 3pm, at Christ Our Light Catholic Church, 1 Maria Drive, in Loudonville. Couples celebrating their 1st, 25th, 50th, or any special wedding anniversary are invited to attend this celebration, which honors the enduring bond of love, and strengthens the sense of community among couples within the Albany Diocese! Bishop Scharfenberger will celebrate the Liturgy and greet couples and their guests at a reception in the Parish Hall at Christ Our Light immediately following Mass, with an opportunity for photos with each couple. Please register through your parish office or you may e-mail [MarriageJubilee@rcda.org](mailto:MarriageJubilee@rcda.org). Deadline is September 7.

### REGISTERED NURSE WANTED

The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas are looking for a registered nurse (licensed in NY state) to manage the day-to-day healthcare needs of the Sisters of Mercy in the Convent of Mercy and the Albany area to ensure Sisters' healthcare needs are met. This person provides health counseling, nursing services, and acts as health liaison with appropriate providers, including physicians, to ensure quality care as a Sister's healthcare needs change. This is a full-time position with competitive pay and excellent benefits. If interested, please send your resume to Jennifer Giuffrida, Regional Director of Health and Wellness, [jgiuffrida@sistersofmercy.org](mailto:jgiuffrida@sistersofmercy.org), or call 518-437-3054.



# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE SCHOOL

## NOW ENROLLING AT ST. THOMAS MIDDLE SCHOOL!

Looking for a middle school where your child will be known, supported, and challenged? At St. Thomas, we offer small class sizes, individualized attention, and strong academics—all in a safe, faith-centered environment where students grow in both knowledge and their relationship with God.

Contact us by calling 518-439-5573 or emailing Lisa Maestro at [lmaestro@stthomas-school.org](mailto:lmaestro@stthomas-school.org) to schedule a tour and discover the St. Thomas difference!

## MOVIE NIGHT!

Beat the heat and join us inside at the school for a special summer movie night! We'll be showing *Despicable Me* on Wednesday, August 6 at 6pm. Bring a blanket or cozy chair and enjoy popcorn, snacks, and a night of fun with friends!

\*Parents & guardians must remain with their children for the duration of all events as they are family events and are not staffed for drop-off care\*

## GET IN TOUCH

### ST. THOMAS SCHOOL

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[www.stthomas-school.org](http://www.stthomas-school.org)

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**Adam Biggs**, Principal  
[abiggs@stthomas-school.org](mailto:abiggs@stthomas-school.org)



## CONGRATULATIONS MR. BIGGS!

Let's give a huge congratulations to our wonderful Principal, Mr. Biggs! He has just graduated from the University of Notre Dame with his Master's in Educational Leadership! We couldn't be prouder! His passion for learning and student success was evident in his capstone project, where he highlighted the fantastic progress our students have made in informational text reading comprehension. This achievement truly reflects his unwavering dedication to our school. Join us in celebrating Mr. Biggs and his inspiring commitment to education! What an amazing leader!

## Summer at St. Thomas



### Summer Library Hours!

Join us on Fridays in August at the STS Library  
from 12-4 with Story Time from 1-2\*  
*August 8, 15 & 22*

### Open House!

Tuesday, July 15th  
11:00am-1:00pm & 4:00-6:00pm



### STS Movie Night!

Wednesday, August 6th @ 6:00 - *Despicable Me*  
*Burgers, Hotdogs, Cotton Candy, Popcorn!*  
*Bring your own beverage and chair\**

# REFLECTION & CATECHESIS

## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

Abraham questions God about how He passes judgment on people. What questions do you have for the Lord?

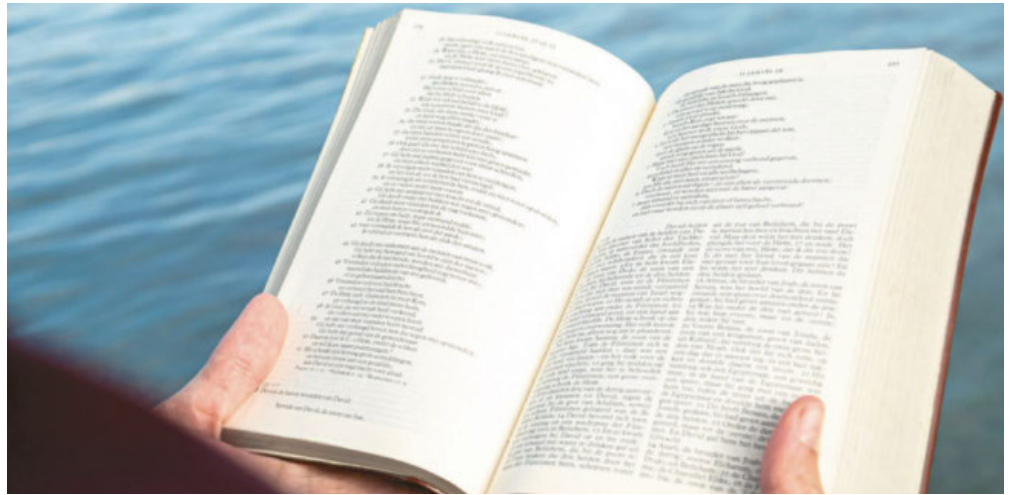
### SECOND READING

Paul teaches the believers in Colossae that through his cross and resurrection from the dead, Jesus united Jews and Gentiles by their shared faith in him. How does your faith in Jesus bring you closer to others?

### GOSPEL

Jesus encourages his disciples to be persistent and bold in praying to God. Can you think of a time when God answered a bold prayer from you?

©LPi



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 27, 2025

**Sunday:** Gn 18:20-32/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 (3a)/Col 2:12-14/Lk 11:1-13

**Monday:** Ex 32:15-24, 30-34/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Mt 13:31-35

**Tuesday,** Memorial of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

**Wednesday:** Ex 34:29-35/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9/Mt 13:44-46

**Thursday,** Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11/Mt 13:47-53

**Friday,** Memorial of Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab/Mt 13:54-58

**Saturday:** Lv 25:1, 8-17/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8/Mt 14:1-12

**Next Sunday:** Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 (1)/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21

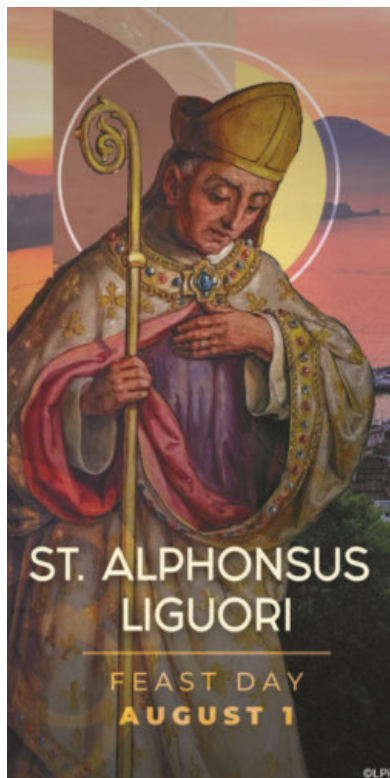
## CATHOLIC CULTURE

### Q&A

**DOES "GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD" REFER TO OUR REQUEST OF GOD TO PROVIDE FOR OUR TEMPORAL NEEDS (FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING) OR TO OUR DAILY NEED FOR THE EUCHARIST, THE "BREAD OF LIFE?"**

Yes, "give us this day our daily bread" does refer to both our temporal needs and our need for the Eucharist. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

"In the fourth petition, by saying "give us," we express in communion with our brethren our filial trust in our heavenly Father. "Our daily bread" refers to the earthly nourishment necessary to everyone for subsistence, and also to the Bread of Life: the Word of God and the Body of Christ." (2861)



## LIVE THE LITURGY

### PRAYER FOR HOPE

Lord,  
Restore my hope! Where I fear the future,  
write a new script in my heart. Where I doubt  
Your goodness, fill me anew. Give me steadfast  
hope for a beautiful tomorrow.  
Amen.

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This week we encourage you to patronize our bulletin sponsor Bethlehem Traditional Irish Dance



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