



# St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

November 5, 2023—31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

451 W. Terra Cotta Ave., Crystal Lake, IL 60014

815-455-5400/[www.stthomascl.church](http://www.stthomascl.church)

# SERVANT



“The greatest among you  
must be your servant.”

MATTHEW 23:11

## *Mission Statement*

*We are a Catholic family, living our awareness of Christ's presence through  
worship, service, evangelization and community for the benefit of all.*

## **PARISH INFORMATION**

### Parish Center Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

### Confessions (Reconciliation - Oak Street Church):

Mondays: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Saturdays: 8:00 am - 9:00 am and 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

### Locations:

Oak Street Church - 451 W. Terra Cotta Ave.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Pierson Street Church - 453 Pierson St.

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Parish Office - 272 King St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

St. Thomas School - 265 King St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Little Saints Preschool - 454 Lake St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

### Holy Hearts Adoration Chapel:

Monday, 6:15 am - Friday, 9:00 pm

Saturday, 7:15 am - 5:45 pm

Sunday, 7:15 am - 6:45 pm

adorationchapel@stthomascl.church

### Resources:

Crystal Lake Food Pantry

42 East St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

(815) 455-0961

M, W, F - 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Th - 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Sat. - 9:00 am - Noon

### St. Vincent DePaul Society:

(779) 800-6742

### Little Christopher Resale Shoppe:

469 Lake St., Crystal Lake, IL 60014

(815) 459-9442

Tues., Wed., Sat. - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm,

Th. 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

*Donations accepted: During Store Hours*

### Marian Central High School: (815)-338-4220

[www.marian.com](http://www.marian.com)

### **Connect with us:**

[www.stthomasflocknote.com](http://www.stthomasflocknote.com)

[www.facebook.com/saintthomascl](http://www.facebook.com/saintthomascl)

[www.stthomascl.church](http://www.stthomascl.church)

[www.stthomascl.org](http://www.stthomascl.org)

[www.instagram.com/st.thomascl](http://www.instagram.com/st.thomascl)

Pastor: Rev. Robert Jones

### Parochial Vicars:

Rev. Charles Fitzpatrick

Rev. James Linkenheld

Rev. William Tunarosa

### Permanent Deacons:

Mr. Allen Bondi

Mr. Neal Carpenter

Mr. Jose Aguilar

### Business Manager:

Sandi DePaul - Ext 405

sdepaul@stthomascl.church

### Administrative Services: (815) 455-5400

Fax-(815) 455-2733

Donna Kothera, Parish Secretary - Ext. 400

dkothera@stthomascl.church

Jeff Sernett, Bookkeeper - Ext. 413

jsernett@stthomascl.church

### Director of Youth & Evangelization: (815) 455-9037

Patrick Haviland, Director

phaviland@stthomascl.church

### Music & Liturgy:

Julie Hermann, Director - Ext. 416

hermannjulieann@gmail.com

Meg Struttman, Administrative Assistant - Ext. 417

Bulletin Editor - mstruttman@stthomascl.church

### Religious Education: (815) 455-9787

Christina Benkert, Secretary

Mary Foerster, Coordinator

Kathy Pfeiffer, Assistant

Linda Aubert, Assistant

religiouseducation@stthomascl.church

### Receptionists:

Renee Lyons, Kris Noonan, Nancy Leibforth,

Janis Kolberg - Ext 406

receptiondesk@stthomascl.church

### Hispanic Ministry: (815) 356-0860

Reverend William Tunarosa, Parochial Vicar

Irene Garcia, Hispanic Ministry Secretary

igarcia@stthomascl.church

Jose Guimaray- Hispanic Ministry Faith Formation Dir.

jguimaray@stthomascl.church

### St. Thomas School/Little Saints Preschool: (815) 459-0496

Gina Houston, Principal

ghouston@stthomascl.org

Michelle Boppart, Office Manager

mboppart@stthomascl.org

## From the Pastor's Desk...



For the entire month of October, bishops and lay delegates from around the world have gathered at the Vatican to participate in the Synod on Synodality. Pope Francis has asked that the participants refrain from disclosing what has been discussed, but Bishop Robert Barron has shared what a typical day at the Synod is like. I thought it would be interesting to share that with you in this bulletin column.

He resides with most of the other American delegates, at the North American College, situated on the Janiculum Hill, about a fifteen-minute walk from St. Peter's. They commence with a quiet Mass in a small chapel at 7 am, and then after a quick breakfast, make their way by bus to the Paul VI audience hall, where the synod has been taking place. They have cleared out the first fifty or so rows of chairs to open a space for thirty-six round tables at which the delegates are seated. The leadership of the synod, including the pope himself (when he is able to attend), are situated at a round table on a slightly elevated platform at the front of the room.

The synodal day begins with prayer (in either Italian, Spanish, English, or French) and proceeds with a calling of the roll and an introduction to that day's work by Cardinal Grech, the General Secretary of the Synod. The focus of their attention was the so-called *Instrumentum Laboris* (working document), which represents a distillation of two years of preparatory conversations around the world. In smaller groups, consideration is given to the various sections of the *Instrumentum* under the guidance of a facilitator, who tightly manages the process. Each person around the table is expected to offer a prepared five-minute contribution, and then, in a second round of discussion, each can react to what the others have said. At the conclusion of this lengthy undertaking, the group puts together a three-minute summary of the main points of convergence and divergence. Then, one by one, each group shares these summaries with the plenary assembly. When those reports are finished, all the delegates are permitted to request time for what are called "free interventions."

Although the whole process can be rather tiresome, Bishop Barron found the time spent in the small groups the most enjoyable. It enabled people to get to know others from an astonishing variety of backgrounds. In the four groups in which he has so far participated, he has met bishops from Liberia, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Turkey, Germany, and Lithuania, as well as lay delegates from Australia, Canada, Ireland, and Lebanon. Most significantly Bishop Barron remarked, "I just don't think there is any other organization in the world that could gather a group of such stunning cultural and geographical diversity. Being part of these groups shows that Jesus' command to go out to the ends of the world proclaiming the Gospel has been, against all odds and expectations, obeyed."

Bishop Barron describes the overall mood of the synod as businesslike and serene. Important and controversial matters are being discussed, and it is very clear that not everyone is of the same opinion, but he has not heard one raised voice or polemical tone. Very occasionally, following an intervention, a smattering of applause might be heard, but typically, each speech is met with respectful silence. It is a great deal of work and often proves to be very tiring, but also quite fascinating, at times even exhilarating. In one year from now, they will all go back for round two. Please keep all the synodal participants in prayer, that the Holy Spirit may indeed accomplish a great work in and through them.

Peace, love and joy, Fr. Bob Jones

## Mass Intentions for the Week

### **Monday, November 6th**

6:30 am † Paul, Katherine, & Robert Marx  
12:10 pm † Roland Gigon

### **Tuesday, November 7th**

6:30 am † Gail & Dale Ives  
12:10 pm The Koutnik Family (Living & Deceased)

### **Wednesday, November 8th**

6:30 am † Paula Zajac  
12:10 pm † Dolores Zaleski

### **Thursday, November 9th**

6:30 am † Karen Kokoroz  
12:10 pm † Matthew Dombrow

### **Friday, November 10th**

6:30 am † Bob Bouley  
12:10 pm † Francis Vandenbroucke

### **Saturday, November 11th**

7:30 am Members of Kostrzewski and Wojciga  
Families (Living & Deceased)  
4:30 pm The People of St Thomas Parish,  
Living & Deceased

### **Sunday, November 12th**

7:30 am † Helen Montavon  
9:00 am † Lucille Fergen  
10:30 am † Salvatore & Barbara Sorce  
12:00 pm St. Thomas Women's Club Members  
(Living & Deceased)  
5:30 pm † Lisa Conlon



Please visit or call the Parish Center to schedule a Mass Intention.

## Parish Calendar

### **Sunday, November 5, 2023**

8:30 am Coffee & Donuts (Community Rm.)  
8:30 am Blood Pressure Screening  
10:00 am RCIA Class (Lower Oak)  
10:30 am Family Mass (Community Room)  
1:30 pm 7<sup>th</sup> Grade R.E. Class (Community Room)  
7:00 pm Confirmation Year 1 and 2 (Comm. Rm.)

### **Monday, November 6, 2023\***

*St. Thomas School Closed*  
10:30 am MMP Rosary Group  
5:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)  
6:30 pm SPRED Group Mtg. (Parish Center)  
7:00 pm Book Club (Lower Oak)  
7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Exemplification  
(Oak St. Church)

### **Tuesday, November 7, 2023\***

12:30 pm Women's Club Board Mtg (Parish Center)  
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus Mtg (Lower Oak)

### **Wednesday, November 8, 2023\***

9:30 am Bible Timeline (Lower Oak)  
4:30 pm Religious Ed Classes (Pierson St. Church)  
6:00 pm R.E. Family Faith (King St. School)  
7:00 pm Bible Timeline (Lower Oak)  
7:00 pm High School YM (Community Room)

### **Thursday, November 9, 2023\***

12:30 pm St. Anthony Guild (Parish Center)  
7:00 pm Junior High YM (Community Room)

### **Friday, November 10, 2023\***

*Parish Center Closed*  
10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Lower Oak)  
6:30 pm Light of the World Retreat Begins  
(Pierson St. Church)

### **Saturday, November 11, 2023**

6:00 am That Man Is You (Community Room)  
7:30 am Mass (Oak St. Church)  
8:00 am Confessions (Oak St. Church)  
8:15 am Men's Group (Lower Oak)  
3:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)

### **Sunday, November 12, 2023**

**NO Coffee and Donuts**

**NO RCIA Class**

*\*6:30 am and 12:10 pm daily Mass at Oak Street*

## Adoration Candle Intentions

October 29 - Nov. 11

† Richard Sitko

† Jerry Soucek

Blake Family

Kilgallon Family



## Evening of Recollection for Women

Monday, November 13 at 7 pm

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

451 W Terra Cotta Avenue in Crystal Lake

Pause, Pray, and Reflect.

### Schedule:

Confessions begin at 6:30 pm

Recollection 7:00 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Examination of Conscience

Personal Prayer

Meditation by a priest of Opus Dei

A Brief Practical Talk about an Aspect of Spiritual

Life

Benediction

### Celebrant Weekday Masses

11/6	6:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	12:10 pm	Fr. Jones
11/7	6:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	12:10 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
11/8	6:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:10 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
11/9	6:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	12:10 pm	Fr. Linkenheld
11/10	6:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	12:10 pm	Fr. Jones
11/11	7:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick

### Celebrant Weekend Masses

11/11	4:30 pm	Fr. Jones
11/12	7:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	9:00 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	10:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:00 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	5:30 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick

### *Please pray for the Deceased*

Janina Zurek

(Mother of Christopher (Krystyna) Zurek)

Carol Altieri

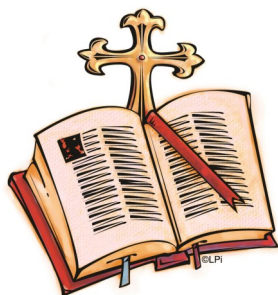
### WEEKEND MASS MINISTERS - 11/11 & 11/12

	Lector	EM	Altar Server
4:30 pm	Lou Bianchi	Gloria Marmol, Christine Kosiba	
7:30 am	Bob Lohman	Eleanore Wojewoda, Liz Sernett, Mark Przybylski, Nancy Tomaso	Michael Davis
9:00 am	Tad Walters	Scott Smith, Michele Johnson, Valerie Cuchna, Judy Gallagher	Alayna Verzal, Scarlett Verzal, Natalia Verzal
10:30 am	Kathleen Jacobs	Susan Gawart, Matt Turk, Don Amoruso, Frank Ciangi	Flynn Wolff, Lucy Wolff, Lucy Jacobs
12:00 pm	Lily Langos	Deb Sosnowski	Mitchell Schwartz, Jack Dickson, Cade Justen
5:30 pm	Monica Caldicott	Annette O'Connell	Jake Polston, Luke Polston, Daniel Polston

Weekly Collection - October 29	
Sunday Envelopes	\$13,535.00
Online Giving	\$10,847.00
Sunday Offering	\$2,822.77
Total Collection	\$27,204.77
Weekly Tithe	Light of the World

### Special Book of Remembrance - Book of Life

In a special way in the month of November, we pray for our loved ones who have died and for all of the faithful departed. Let us remember them in our prayers, and ask them to pray for us as well. On the table stand in the rear of our Oak Street Church, throughout the month of November, we will keep a Special Book of Remembrance (Book of Life) in their honor. We encourage you to write the names of any of your loved ones who have died, and we will remember them in prayer during the month of November in a special way.



### Readings for the week of November 5, 2023

Sunday: Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10/Ps 131:1, 2, 3/1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13/Mt 23:1-12

Monday: Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9/Lk 14:25-33

Thursday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22

Friday: Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk 16:1-8

Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11/Lk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (2b)/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-1

### Knights of Columbus Council #3880 Advent Wreath Sales

Begin Next Weekend – November 11 & 12, 2023

In the spirit of preparation of the birth of Our Savior, the Knights of Columbus are offering Advent Wreaths and prayers this year. These fresh cut ever-green wreaths are already assembled and include a ring, greenery, berries, cones and packaging. We will also have candles available.



Wreaths will be available in limited quantities for sale starting November 11, after the Masses, in the Narthex. Cash, check, or credit card will be accepted.

Wreath without candles - \$35.00

Wreath with candles - \$40.00

Candles only - \$10.00

All profits are going to charity. Any questions, please contact Mike Kebr at [mkebr@comcast.net](mailto:mkebr@comcast.net).

### Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass Tuesday, Nov. 21

In November, as Catholics remember those who have gone before us, Knights of Columbus Fr. McCormick Council 3880 also remembers its deceased members at its annual Memorial Mass, scheduled on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Oak St. Church.

During the mass a roll call of all deceased members of Council 3880 is read in remembrance. All family members of deceased Knights, Council 3880 members, and all parishioners are invited to attend the Mass, which will be celebrated by Pastor and Council Chaplain Fr. Robert Jones. Light refreshments will be served after mass in the Community Center.

43rd Annual St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

## Christmas in the Country Craft Show



**Sat., November 18**

**8am – 3pm**

**1023 McHenry Ave  
Crystal Lake, IL**

Now over 69 Juried Crafters with unique hand-made items, the ever-popular Bake and Candy Booth, our own Seton's Artisans, 5-Prize Grand Raffle and a Food Court with some homemade offerings! Come and take part in this pre-Holiday tradition with us! Admission still only \$3.

Sponsored by the Seton Women's Group



Have you thought of joining the choir, but can't commit to weekly rehearsals? Give us a try with our very first CHRISTMAS CHOIR! This is a wonderful time for those who cannot commit to weekly rehearsals, to sing with the 9am choir on a temporary basis. We will begin rehearsing Christmas Music on 11/9 – however, you only need to commit to coming to a minimum of 3 rehearsals from then until Christmas!

Any adult or High School Student is welcome to join us. We will be singing at Midnight Mass & at the 9am Mass on Christmas Day (you are not required to sing at both). You will also have the option of singing Sundays with us and/or joining us as we Christmas Carol in the community.

We rehearse Thursday evenings from 6:45 to 8:00 in the Church. If you are interested in joining or have questions, please contact our Music Director, Julie Hermann at [hermannjulieann@gmail.com](mailto:hermannjulieann@gmail.com) or 815-690-9096. We will want to have a folder prepared for you.

### Service to Others

Over the years we have had many great social events in our parish community. We have had socials for New Year's Eve, St. Patrick's Day, Mardi Gras, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Valentine's Day, and so many more. It seems we will use any excuse to have a party and enjoy each other's company. And for more than the last decade, my pastor has been present at most of these events. What always tickles me is to see him in his clerics going around with a tray of entrees or desserts as he seeks to serve his parishioners. We have joked that his clothing does resemble that of a waiter in a fine restaurant. The only difference is no tips! Sorry, Monsignor.

To see a shepherd serve his sheep causes me to reflect on how we are all called to serve one another. We are called to a life of humility and service, giving of ourselves for the greater glory of God. When we seek to serve our brothers and sisters, the Jesus in us meets the Jesus in them.

In our everyday lives we can find ways of serving others if we are mindful of the opportunities all around us. We must never fall into the trap of seeing others in terms of "us and them." In Christ, there is only US. In Christ, there is no Greek or Jew, servant or free. We are one. On this day, who will God place on your path for you to serve? Don't be fooled into thinking that all calls are for something grand. Sometimes, even a little dessert might be all it takes to show others they are loved.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

In the Gospel today, we hear the good news that when we keep our focus on God and serve one another, God exalts us!

***As you place your gift in the  
Society of St. Vincent de  
Paul Poor Box, please say a  
special prayer for the poor  
who have no one to pray for them.***



# Ministerio Hispano

Dirección: 272 King St. Crystal Lake, IL. 60014

Teléfono: 815-455-5400

Línea Directa: 815-356-0860 Fax: 815-455-2733

## Horario de Misas

Martes 6:00 am Miércoles 6:00 am

Jueves 7:30 pm Viernes 7:30 pm

Sábado 5:00 pm y 7:00 pm

Domingo 9:30 am y 11:30 am

La Adoración al Santísimo es en la Capilla de Adoración ubicada en la esquina de la calle Oak/Ruta 176.

De Lunes 6:15 am a Viernes 9:00 pm

Sábado: 7:15 am a 5:45 pm

Domingo: 7:15 am a 6:45 pm

“Ven y Adora, Él espera por ti”

## Horario para confesiones:

Viernes de 6:00-7:00pm

Sábados después de misa de 7pm

O hacer una cita en la oficina parroquial.

**Coordinador: Reverendo William Tunarosa**

**Atención al Público:** Martes a Jueves de 9:00am a 4:00pm

**Llamar a la Oficina Parroquial para hacer su cita:**  
(815-356-0860)

**Oficina del Ministerio Hispano, Atención al Público:**

Irene Garcia: Lunes a Viernes 9:00am a 5:00pm

## Colecta Semanal - 10/29

Pierson St.	\$3,562.22
Pierson Online	\$153.00

“El que se enaltece será humillado, y el que se humilla será enaltecido” (Mateo 23,12). De ahí viene el consejo de Jesús de no imitar a los maestros de la ley, quienes solían poner cargas muy pesadas a la gente y ellos no hacían nada por llevarlas a cabo. Cuando se emprende algún proyecto, ya sea en familia o comunidad, se supone que el líder debe de poner el ejemplo al realizar las tareas, sean grandes o pequeñas. Se trata de servir siempre con alegría y buen ejemplo: “El más grande entre ustedes se hará el servidor de todos” (Mateo 23,11). Sin buscar honores ni complacencias con nosotros mismos. ¿Qué te parece? Serás capaz de ser humilde y servir a los que te rodean con ese amor que Jesús nos muestra en el Evangelio de hoy.

“Nosotros, discípulos de Jesús, no debemos buscar títulos de honor, de autoridad o de supremacía. Yo les digo que a mí personalmente me duele ver a personas que psicológicamente viven corriendo detrás de la vanidad y condecoraciones. Nosotros, discípulos de Jesús, no debemos hacer esto, ya que entre nosotros debe haber una actitud sencilla y fraterna” (Papa Francisco 11-05-2017). Gracias, Papa

Francisco, por ubicarnos en lo que es verdaderamente importante. Gracias, por prevenirnos ante la tentación de la vanagloria y de los primeros lugares. Aunque no es malo que nos den las gracias por lo que hacemos, el sentido es que seamos humildes y agradecidos.



**Notre Dame Club of McHenry County** will be hosting its annual Hesburgh Lecture this Thursday, November 9. This lecture is sponsored by the University of Notre Dame to honor Fr. Theodore Hesburgh C.S.C., the well-respected and influential past president of Notre Dame. Professor Clive Neal will be speaking at the Challenger Learning Center in Woodstock on **The Importance of Human Space Exploration and the Evolution of the Moon**. The event will be at 6:30 with fellowship and the lecture will begin at 7:00 p.m. Please RSVP to Sara Bligh at [sobligh@gmail.com](mailto:sobligh@gmail.com) so the Club can prepare for food and seating.



## SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

You are invited to attend St. Thomas' **Ladies Advent Program** entitled "**Reflecting HIS Light**" on the evening of Friday, December 1, 2023.

Join us at the Oak Street Church for evening mass, followed by a simple supper, fellowship, music, and an inspirational talk by parishioner, Deborah Dunlea on welcoming and preparing ourselves for the arrival of our Lord and Savior!

Check the bulletin in the coming weeks for additional program information and table registration.



## Light of the World Parish Retreat November 10 - 13, 2023

Don't miss this opportunity to relight the flame in your faith life! Join us for an amazing retreat that will help you grow in your personal relationship with Christ. For over 20 years St. Thomas has been hosting this beautiful retreat. If you haven't been in a while, maybe it is time to go again! If you haven't yet gone, now is the time!

The retreat will be in the lower level of Pierson Street Church. Meals and snacks will be provided and you go home and sleep in your own bed at night!

The retreat is for anyone 18 years of age. How can you register?

See the parish website, email Patrick Haviland ([phaviland@stthomascl.church](mailto:phaviland@stthomascl.church)), or call the Parish Center 815-455-5400.

<https://saintthomascatholicchurch.org/lotw>

# Youth Ministry

- Sun., Nov. 5. 7<sup>th</sup> Grade RE / 1:30 – 3PM / Oak Street Church / Community Room
- Sun., Nov 5 Confirmation 1&2 Session / 7 – 8:30 PM / Community Room
- Thur., Nov. 9 Jr. High Youth Ministry / 7-8:30 pm / Grades 6 – 8 / Community Room
- Wed., Nov. 15 High School Youth Ministry / Thanksgiving Dinner / 7-9PM pm (longer time) /  
Grades 9 –12 / Community Room
- Thur., Nov., 16 Jr. High Youth Ministry / 7-8:30 pm / Grades 6 – 8 / Community Room

**Marian Central Catholic  
High School  
Open House**  
Sunday, November 5  
1:00 - 3:00 pm

**100%**  
Graduation Rate



**\$19.05M**  
college  
scholarships  
earned by the  
Class of 2023

## Highlights include:

- Meet current students & parents
- Student-led campus tours
- Learn about athletics, fine arts, and clubs



Scan to register

## Got kids?

Little Christopher's Resale Shoppe needs kid's gently used winter clothing. If unable to drop off during store hours contact Beth at Lanzab4@gmail.com.

Store is located at 469 Lake Street. Open  
Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday from 10 to 1  
Thursday 12:30 to 3



## Sin on the Soul

*Why do some sacraments leave a character or mark on the soul? Don't all sacraments affect the soul?*

All sacraments mediate grace and connect us to Christ and to the Church. Some sustain us in our faith journey, while others help us heal from the effects of sin. Each one offers a share in God's life, giving us what we need to be faithful followers of Jesus. But some sacraments change us in ways that are irreversible. The three sacraments that leave a character are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. We are literally different people because of the effect of the grace of those sacraments. We are changed at the core of our being in such a fundamental way that we can not go back to what we once were.

In Baptism, we are freed from original sin, initiated into the Body of Christ as adopted sons and daughters. In Confirmation, we are given the fullness of God's Spirit, sealed in his grace and gifted with what we need to live a Christian life. In Holy Orders, a priest is marked as an 'alter Christus,' another Christ, and is once and forever a priest who offers sacrifice, forgives sin, and acts in the person of Christ. In these three sacraments, we are conformed more closely to Christ, reflecting his love and truth.

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**Jeff Tkachuk**

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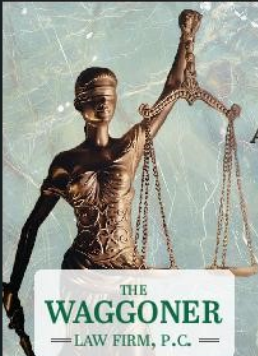
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