



St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

December 17, 2023—Third Sunday of Advent

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

815-455-5400/www.stthomascl.church



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

Connect with us:

www.stthomasflocknote.com

www.facebook.com/saintthomascl

www.stthomascl.church

www.stthomascl.org

www.instagram.com/st.thomascl

Cover photo courtesy of CameraLady.com

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

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Janis Kolberg - Ext 406

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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

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mboppart@stthomascl.org

www.stthomascl.org

From the Pastor's Desk...



What is the difference between happiness and joy? The short and simple answer is that joy runs much deeper than happiness. Look at your own life. Remember the times you were happy. How long did this happiness last? What did it depend upon? Happiness seems to be something we seek on the outside, whereas joy seems to flow from deep within our sense of being.

Think about the times when you were overcome with joy. Your body tingled with excitement for life, the present moment was enough, it was perfect. You had a love for life that was not external, but came from within. Happiness is short-term. Joy is here, and it is now. Joy does not leave us. It is the ground on which we stand, walk, and move forward in life.

Joy seems to surface during both relationship and connection. Joy can be found in a friend that I can call when I need to talk, or sit with comfortably in silence when that is what is most needed. Joy is not so much about laughing at something, but sharing a good sense of humor with someone. Joy is powerful. Joy fills us with life, confidence, excitement, love, energy, and power. Luke 2:10 tells us "For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will come to all people." This joy is long-term, lasting, and eternal. Joy grounds us, is always with us, it sustains us, and provides us with life-giving power.

Have you been in the presence of someone who radiates joy? They are pleasant to be with. They attract people. People tend to gravitate toward them. They carry an inner peace and confidence whether their environment is calm or chaotic. We want what they have. How do we access this same inner joy?

How do we obtain this joy? John 16:24 tells us, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." Is it really that simple? I believe it may be that simple! All we need to do is ask, and your joy will be complete. In John 15:11, Jesus proclaims, "I came so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy might be complete." Jesus wants our lives to be full of the joy of the Gospels, which is the Good News.

Joy is not pursued. It is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22). Joy is a fruit of prayer. Prayer needs to be our constant companion. We prayerfully sit in silence because we love God. We come with no expectations, yet God graces us with inner joy as we let go of the barriers to this inner joy. What are the barriers? They include fear, anxiety, loneliness, lack of confidence, worry. The paradox is when we open ourselves up to God, we receive joy!

From a spiritual point of view, joy is more than happiness, and happiness is more than pleasure. Pleasure is in the body. Happiness is in the mind and feelings. Joy is a deeper reality, subsiding deep within the heart and soul. It is in our spirit. It is in the very center of who we are.

As Christians, we come to know that our ultimate joy comes from allowing our Lord to be at the center of our lives. We must allow him to sit on the throne of our heart and soul. It is only then that we are most fully ourselves and most fully whole. May the Joy of the Gospels be in your heart and soul this Gaudete Sunday.

The Hope, Peace, Joy and Love of Advent,
Fr. Bob Jones

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 18th

6:30 am Francis J. Barciak, Jr. (Special Intention)
† Frances M. Barciak
12:10 pm † Amy Odom

Tuesday, December 19th

6:30 am † Jan Bouley
8:30 am † George Gregus
12:10 pm † Salvador Camilon

Wednesday, December 20th

6:30 am Deborah Dart (Special Intention)
12:10 pm † David Wolf

Thursday, December 21st

6:30 am † Jesus Avila
8:30 am James McAndrews (Special Intention)
12:10 pm † Ann & Ben Abraham

Friday, December 22nd

6:30 am Jason Vardamaskos (Special Intention)
12:10 pm † Kenneth Huff

Saturday, December 23rd

7:30 am Bertolfo Marvie Badero (Special Intention)
4:30 pm The People of St Thomas Parish
(Living & Deceased)

Sunday, December 24th

7:30 am † William Becker Jr.
9:00 am † Joseph Sciluffo
10:30 am † Barbara Sexton
12:00 pm † Tom Lehner
4:00 pm † Joseph and Kevin Kowasz
4:00 pm (CR) † Kyle McCoy
6:00 pm The People of St. Thomas Parish
(Living & Deceased)
7:30 pm † Frank Moczulewski

Monday, December 25th

12:00 am Chester Robaczewski (Special Intention)
† Joan Robaczewski
7:30 am † Guy Kolberg
† Efren Livio
9:00 am † Zofia Bylina
10:30 am † Gene Baseggio
† Karen Bielas
12:00 pm † Iluminada Pascual Felina Ponsaran



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

Parish Calendar

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Third Sunday in Advent

8:30 am Knights Breakfast with Santa
1:30 am RCIA Class (Lower Oak)

Monday, December 18, 2023*

10:30 am MMP Rosary Group
5:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)
7:00 pm Growing in Christ LOTW (Parish Center)
7:00 pm Women Evening of Recollection
(Oak St. Church)

Tuesday, December 19, 2023*^

6:30 pm Knights of Columbus Mtg (Lower Oak)
6:30 pm Communal Penance Service (Oak St. Church)

Wednesday, December 20, 2023*

1:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)

Thursday, December 21, 2023*^

5:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)
7:00 pm Longest Night Prayer Service (Comm. Room)

Friday, December 22, 2023*

7:00 am Confessions (Oak St. Church)
9:00 pm Adoration Chapel closes

Saturday, December 23, 2023

7:30 am Mass (Oak St. Church)
8:00 am Confessions (Oak St. Church)
3:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)
4:30 pm Mass (Oak St. Church)

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday Masses 7:30 am/9:00 am/10:30 am/12:00 noon

Christmas Eve Masses:

4:00 pm/6:00 pm/7:30 pm/Midnight

Monday, December 25, 2023

Christmas Day Masses:

7:30 am/9:00 am/10:30 am/12:00 noon

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

^8:30 am Mass at Oak Street

Adoration Candle Intentions

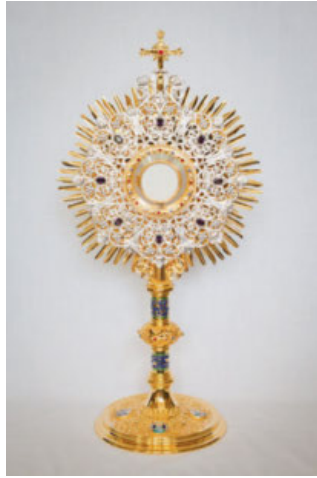
Dec. 10 - Dec. 23

Jagodzinski Family

Slowey Family

†John Venezia

†Raymond Visk



Communal Penance Service

Tuesday, December 19th

7:00 PM - Oak Street Church



Parish Center Closed

Monday, December 25

Tuesday, December 26

Monday, January 1

Celebrant Weekday Masses

12/18	6:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:10 pm	Fr. Linkenheld
12/19	6:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	8:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:10 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
12/20	6:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	12:10 pm	Fr. Jones
12/21	6:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	8:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	12:10 pm	Fr. Tunarosa
12/22	6:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:10 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
12/23	7:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld

Celebrant Weekend Masses

12/23	4:30 pm	Fr. Jones
12/24	7:30 am	Fr. Jones
	9:00 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	10:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	12:00 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
SEE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE		

Please pray for the Deceased
Stephen Baker

WEEKEND MASS MINISTERS - 12/23 & 12/24

	Lector	EM	Altar Server
4:30 pm	Clare Ossman	Christine Kosiba, Gloria Marmol	
7:30 am	Bob Lohmann	Pam Wyman, Mark Przybylski, Gina Houston, Eleanore Wojewoda	
9:00 am	Greg Ives	Jim Nissen, Rhonda Nissen, Lis Tevyaw, Judy Gallagher	Alayna Verzal, Scarlett Verzal, Natalia Verzal
10:30 am	Kathleen Jacobs	Dawn Ahsmann, Frank Ciangi, Jerry Lyons, Jean Marie Brickey	Michaela Johnson, Erin Johnson, Andrea Alvarado
12:00 pm	Joanna Majewska	Deb Sosnowski	

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki)

Oplatki (or oplatek) wafer is a popular, family-centered Christmas tradition enjoyed by families from Eastern Europe. The Oplatki tradition originated in Poland and is traced to the early centuries of Christianity.

These Christmas wafers are available on the table in the Narthex. We ask for a donation of \$2.50 per package, please use the envelopes for that purpose and place the envelopes in the donations box or in the slot on the library door.

Women's Evening of Recollection

Monday, December 18 - Oak St. Church

Lord, grant me the love with which you want me to love you. Furrow 270

A recollection is a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas!

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 Talk, Benediction

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Next Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-3

Knights of Columbus Annual

"Breakfast with Santa!"

It is that time of the year again, and the *Jolly Old Elf* will be making his annual appearance at the **Fr. McCormick Council Knights of Columbus** monthly breakfast on **December 17th** in the Parish Community Center. All are invited to stop in with the little ones and watch their eyes light up with glee as they tell Santa what they want and how so very, very good they have been all year!

Children between newborn and ninety-five will get a special treat from Santa's elves!

We will be serving our spectacular full menu of something for everyone... eggs, pancakes, sausage, ham, bacon, waffles, steak & eggs, mouth-watering omelets, and a few specials!

Stop in before or after Mass! But even if you cannot come in to eat, let the children visit Santa.

Your continued support of Fr. McCormick Council is appreciated, and we wish all the best of this most Holy holiday season to you and your family. God Bless!

No Religious Education Classes

There will be no Religious Education Classes on December 20th, December 27th, and January 3rd! Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "I am the voice of one crying in the desert; make straight the way of the Lord." Let us ask for the grace to help others to know the love of the Lord.



Christmas is a time of love and gift giving...please give to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve

This year the Fourth Sunday of Advent Falls on Sunday, December 24th which is also Christmas Eve - **so when do we go to church?**

To fulfill the Sunday obligation for Mass you need to attend either Saturday, the 23rd 4:30 Mass or one of Sunday, the 24th morning Masses - 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am or Noon.

To fulfill the Christmas Mass (Holy Day) obligation you can attend any of the Masses on Sunday afternoon/evening - 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 7:30 pm or Midnight Mass. Or one of the Masses on Monday, December 25th - 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am or Noon.

Christmas Mass Times

Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm Church

4:00 pm Community Center

6:00 pm

7:30 pm

9:00 pm Spanish Mass at Oak Street Church

Midnight Mass (11:30 pm Caroling)



Monday, December 25

7:30 am

9:00 am

10:30 am

12:00 pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation Schedule St. Thomas the Apostle Church

Mon. 12/18	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Tues. 12/19	7:00 pm Communal Penance Service
Wed. 12/20	1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
Thur. 12/21	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Fri. 12/22	7:00 am to 8:00 am
Sat. 12/23	8:00 am to 9:00 am 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm



Christmas Flower Donations 2023

We are accepting monetary donations for flowers for our Church altar during the Christmas season. The suggested donation is \$10 or more. Please place an envelope marked, "Christmas Flower Donations 2023", no later than December 24. Please place the envelope in the Sunday collection basket or drop off at the Parish Office. Thank you to help beautify our Churches during this Christmas Season.

Holiday Adoration Chapel Hours

The Adoration Chapel will be closed from 9:00 pm on Friday, December 22 through Monday, December 25.

The Chapel will be open at 12:00 noon until 9:00 pm on Tuesday, December 26 (no 6:30 am Mass), and at 6:15 am to 9:00 pm on December 27, 28 and 29

The Chapel will be closed December 30, 31 and January 1 and will reopen on January 2 at 6:15 am.



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



El Tercer Domingo de Adviento es el domingo de “Gaudete”, que en latín quiere decir alégrense o estar alegres. Por este motivo, las lecturas de hoy nos hablan del regocijo de tener al Señor ya casi con nosotros: “Estén siempre alegres en el Señor, les repito, estén alegres.” El Señor está cerca. A esta altura del Adviento, debemos estar ya preparados y listos para recibir a Jesús, especialmente en la familia. Es esencial ayudar a los más pequeños a comprender que el mejor regalo de Navidad es Jesús en nuestro hogar. Danos Señor la alegría del Evangelio y el gozo de María, al esperar a su Hijo amado. Danos el compromiso de Juan Bautista, que anunciaba la luz del que iba a venir, y del cual no era digno de desatarle la correa sus sandalias. Todo eso es lo que nos hace cristianos comprometidos, ayudándonos unos a otros a ir al encuentro de Dios en esta Navidad.

“El camino de la alegría no es fácil, no es un paseo. Se necesita trabajo para estar siempre en la alegría” (Papa Francisco 12-13-2020). ¿Cuándo soy testigo de la alegría que existe en mí por mi bautismo? ¿Cuándo soy testigo de la luz de Cristo? Señor, tú me conoces bien y sabes que muchas veces mi

estilo de vida no está al nivel que tu mereces. Sabes que, en lugar de confiar en ti plenamente, cierro las posibilidades de encuentro, de confianza contigo y con mi familia. Deseo ser libre de toda oscuridad, dame tu luz para ver tu verdad. ¡Ven Señor!

©LPi



LONGEST NIGHT

Prayer Service

This wonderful time of year can also be a stressful time for many. We welcome you to a night of prayer, peace, faith, joy, hope and love. Fellowship time included.

December 21 | 6:30-8PM

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
451 W. Terra Cotta Ave.
Crystal Lake, IL

Hosted by:
St. Thomas the Apostle

Ministry of Hope



DIocese of ROCKFORD
Catholic Charities

Christmas Communal Penance Confession Schedule

We are offering special Communal Penance Services to help everyone make a good, holy Confession to prepare for the Feast of Christmas. The Communal Penance Services here at St. Thomas and at our other area Parishes are as follows:

St. Margaret Mary Church, Algonquin, -
Monday, December 18, at 7:00 pm

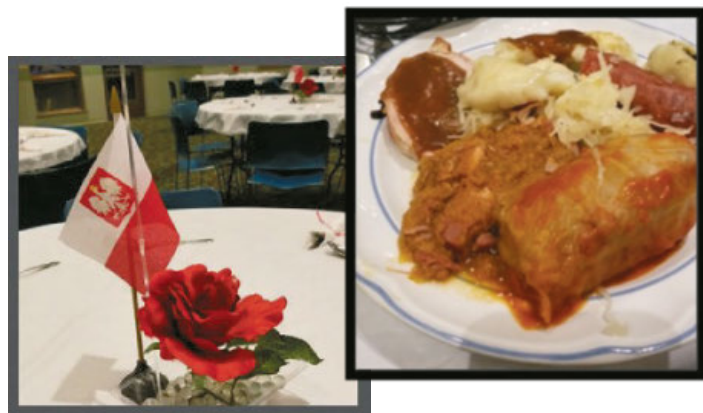
St. Thomas the Apostle Oak St. Church -
Tuesday, December 19, at 7:00 pm

St. Mary Church, Huntley -
Wednesday, December 20, at 7:00 pm



Mówimy Po Polsku?? Well, get your Polish ready, St. Thomas! The Annual *Fr. McCormick's Knights of Columbus Council 3880* Polish Dinner is coming! Mark your calendar for **Saturday, January 13, 2024**. Doors open at 6:00 pm to the Oak Street Community Room. We are getting ready to serve up all of the scrumptious menu with *Irene Skaja's* Beef Barley Mushroom soup, Roast Pork, Polish Sausage, Pierogi and Bigos to name a few and save room for some Kolaczki and Raspberry Nalesniki!

A great evening for a low price, \$25.00 per adult, and \$10.00 per child. **Tickets go on sale at the Knights breakfast December 17th through January 6th after most Sunday Masses!!! "Nie będzie późno"**



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NIGHT OUT WINTER FUN-RAISER!**

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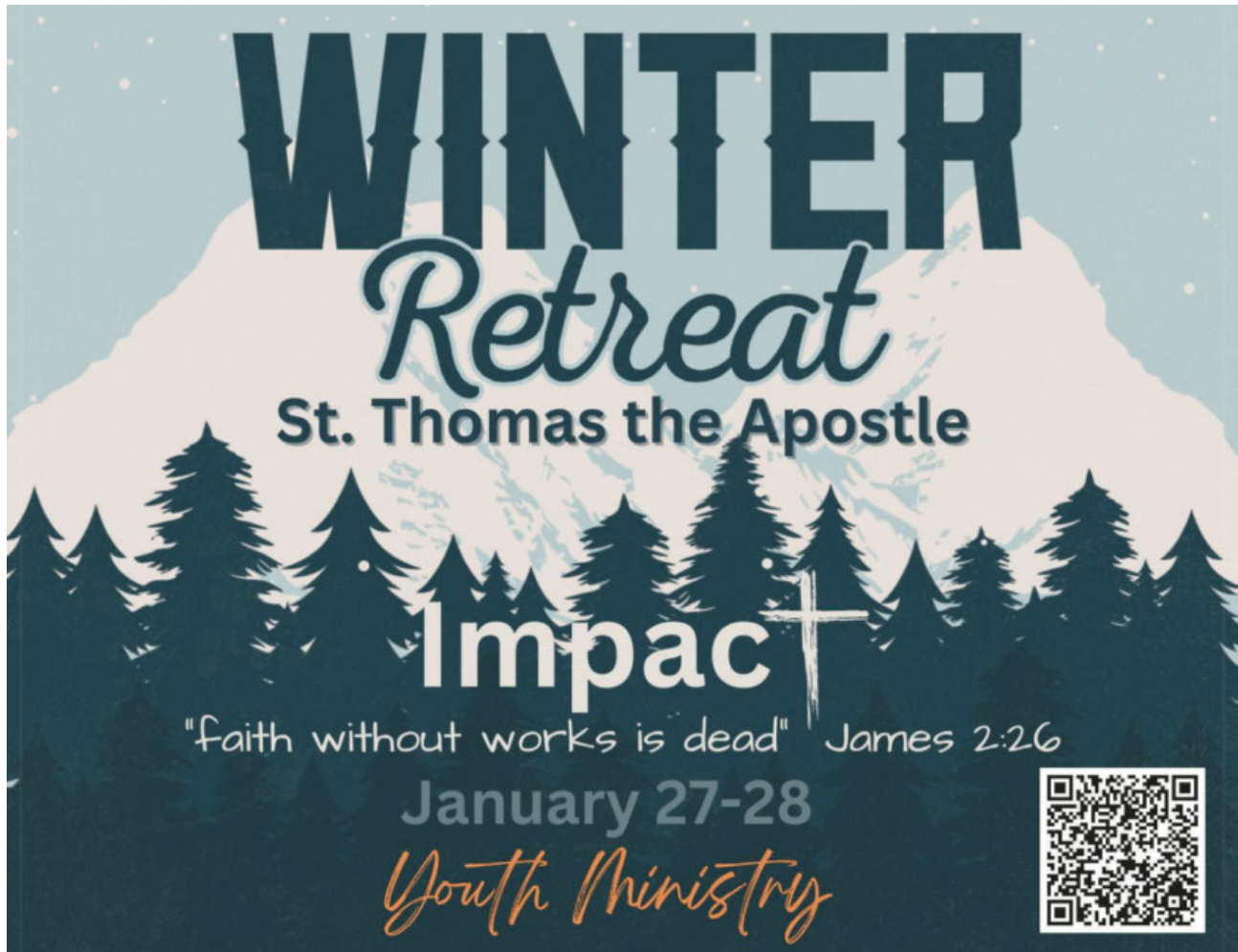
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The Vixen**
1208 N. Green Street
McHenry, IL
auctria.events/STSwinterfunraiser.com


DOORS OPEN: 6:00PM
SHOWTIME: 7:00PM - 10:00PM
\$50 GENERAL ADMISSION, STANDING ROOM
\$100 VIP ADMISSION, TABLE OF 4
\$125 BALCONY VIP


This is a 21+ event. Cash Bar with STS Signature Drink Available for Purchase
Heavy Hors D'oeuvres Provided
Feel free to bring your own appetizers and sweets

Youth Ministry

NO YM December 20th - January 4th



WINTER
Retreat
St. Thomas the Apostle
Impact 
"faith without works is dead" James 2:26
January 27-28
Youth Ministry



Employment Opportunity for the 2023-2024 School Year

Preschool Classroom Assistant

Little Saints Preschool of St. Thomas the Apostle School is in need of a classroom assistant for our 4-year-old classroom.

This is an hourly paid position. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Houston, STS Principal. ghouston@stthomascl.org



Employment Opportunity for the 2023-2024 School Year

Extended Time Care Supervisor/Manager

St. Thomas School offers after school care from dismissal at 2:00 until 5:00 pm.

Students begin extended care with large motor activity recess; go to cafeteria for snack and then return to the ET Classroom for quiet games, G-rated movies, homework time, or quiet reading as they wait for their pickup.

This is an hourly paid position. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Houston, STS Principal. ghouston@stthomascl.org





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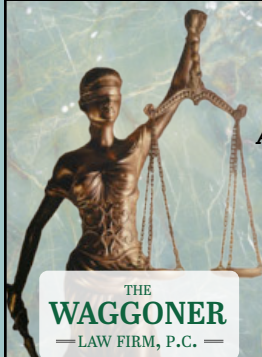
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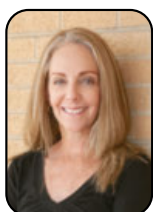
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