

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

January 7, 2024—The Epiphany of the Lord

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

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

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dkothera@stthomascl.church

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jsernett@stthomascl.church

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phaviland@stthomascl.church

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hermannjulieann@gmail.com

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Kathy Pfeiffer, Assistant

Linda Aubert, Assistant

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Janis Kolberg - Ext 406

receptiondesk@stthomascl.church

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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

Gina Houston, Principal

ghouston@stthomascl.org

Michelle Boppart, Office Manager

mboppart@stthomascl.org

www.stthomascl.org

From the Pastor's Desk...



During Christmas time we give presents to different people and others give presents to us. What's it all about? It all goes back to the story of the wise men going to Bethlehem, falling down on their knees, and offering the best gifts they could afford to the Baby King.

But Christmas is not just about giving presents. It's more about being present. How present are we to others? Do we share ourselves with warmth, affection, and sincerity? The quality of our personal presence is everything. Today, it is all too easy for gift-giving to be just part of the commercialization of Christmas than an expression of unconditional love.

The magi were completely single-minded and sincere in their gift-giving. Their gifts were expressions of their respect, reverence, gratitude and love for the child. Their gifts were given with no strings attached, no conditions, and no mixed motives. The flaws in our own gift-giving may make us feel that the whole business of exchanging Christmas presents should be abolished, and that the commercialization of Christmas should be restrained and restricted, if not eliminated altogether.

If we think such thoughts, it may be helpful to remember that the consumerism of Christmas is somewhat necessary. Were it completely a spiritual celebration, hundreds of small businesses would surely fail. Thousands of factory workers making bon-bons, trees, chocolates, decorations, cards and toys, would find themselves unemployed. In my past life, I spent five years as a manager of a "Toys R Us", so I believe I am somewhat qualified to speak about this subject. It may also be helpful to remember that if people did not spend money on gifts to family and friends at Christmas, their consciences would not be roused to make donations to the poor and needy at this special time of giving and sharing. Many charities, in fact, experience a big boost at Christmas time.

Despite the limits and flaws in our gift-giving, it's important to both keep the practice alive and to purify it of its worst excesses. It's particularly important to the lives of children. The good news is that while they are attracted to receiving material gifts, they are also attracted to the Crib and to the story of Baby Jesus lying there clothed in rags. Their hearts are touched by the plight of his parents who are so poor that they can offer Him nothing but their protection and affection.

In fact, children easily get the message that this is a story of love. They appreciate the humanity of the Holy Family, their struggles and their sacrifices, to bring to the human race the Light of the Nations. The story of the visit to the Crib by the Magi is a story of giving and receiving. It speaks of how gifts express love between persons, and of how gifts given with love bind people together. But it is not simply about the giving of things (in this case gold, frankincense, and myrrh) but the giving of persons, the sharing of themselves.

In celebrating the Epiphany we are celebrating the greatest proof of goodness there has ever been, of God's deeply personal love for us. For it was out of love, that the Father gave us the Son, and gave Him to be our Light, our Savior, our King, and our Joy. His present to us is nothing less than His Presence in our daily lives. Thank you for coming here once again today to celebrate His True Presence!

Peace be with you,

Fr. Bob Jones

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, January 8th

6:30 am † Kevin Patrick Sullivan
12:10 pm † Iluminada Pascual Felina Ponsaran

Tuesday, January 9th

6:30 am † Raymond Pozdol
12:10 pm † Patrick White

Wednesday, January 10th

6:30 am † Sydney & Magdalene Kamysz
12:10 pm † Robert Otis

Thursday, January 11th

6:30 am † Holly Mergili
12:10 pm † Tim & Julie Mertins

Friday, January 12th

6:30 am † Paul Cribb
12:10 pm Hazel Welch (Special Intention)

Saturday, January 13th

7:30 am † Luella Streit
4:30 pm † John Amidei

Sunday, January 14th

7:30 am Hazel Zaleski (Special Intention)
9:00 am Feigle Family (Special Intention)
10:30 am The People of St. Thomas Parish,
Living & Deceased
10:30 am FM The Children of St. Thomas Parish
(Special Intention)
12:00 pm † Elizabeth Teetsov
5:30 pm † Karen Volante



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

Parish Calendar

Sunday, January 7, 2024, Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 am Coffee & Donuts (Community Rm.)
8:30 am Blood Pressure Screening (Library)
9:00 am R.C.I.A. at Mass
10:00 am R.C.I.A. Class (Lower Oak)

Monday, January 8, 2024, Baptism of the Lord

10:30 am MMP Rosary Group
5:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)
5:00 pm St. Catherine of Siena Guild
(Parish Center)
7:00 pm Book Club (Lower Oak)

Tuesday, January 9, 2024

9:30 am St. Jude Guild (Parish Center)
12:30 pm Women's Club Board (Parish Center)

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

4:30 pm Grade R.E. Classes (Pierson St. Church)
6:00 pm R.E. Family Faith (King St. School)
7:00 pm High School YM (Community Room)

Thursday, January 11, 2024

7:00 pm Junior High YM (Community Room)
7:00 pm St. Vincent DePaul (Lower Oak)

Friday, January 12, 2024

10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry (Lower Oak)

Saturday, January 13, 2024

6:00 am That Man Is You (Community Room)
7:30 am Mass (Oak St. Church)
8:00 am Confessions (Oak St. Church)
8:00 am Men's Group (Lower Oak)
3:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)
4:30 pm Mass (Oak St. Church)

Sunday, January 14, 2024

8:30 am Coffee & Donuts (Community Rm.)
9:00 am R.C.I.A. at Mass
10:00 am R.C.I.A. Class (Lower Oak)
10:30 am Family Mass (Community Room)

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

Adoration Candle Intentions

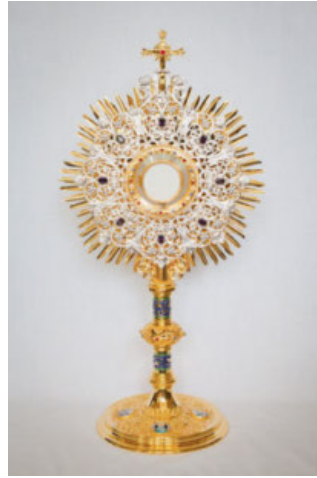
Jan. 7 - Jan. 20

Widger Family

† Dennis Lannert

† Paul Witt

† Jerry Wilkerson



Holy Water Bottles

In honor of the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Monday, January 8, we will be offering holy water for use in your homes. (Your donation of \$1.50 will help defray the cost of these containers—it is not to pay for the holy water!) Holy water is always available for you in the receptacle in the Narthex of Oak Street Church. We encourage frequent and reverent use of this wonderful sacramental to call down God's protection on your homes, families, and loved ones throughout the year.



January 7 & 14

Coffee & Donuts in the Community Room after morning Masses!

Celebrant Weekday Masses

1/8	6:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	12:10 pm	Fr. Linkenheld
1/9	6:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	12:10 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
1/10	6:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	12:10 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
1/11	6:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	12:10 pm	Fr. Linkenheld
1/12	6:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	12:10 pm	Fr. Tunarosa
1/13	7:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick

Celebrant Weekend Masses

1/13	4:30 pm	Fr. Jones
1/14	7:30 am	Fr. Linkenheld
	9:00 am	Fr. Jones
	10:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:00 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	5:30 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick

Please pray for the Deceased

Warren D. Smith

Diane VanMiddlesworth

(Mother of David (Elaine) Nastali)

WEEKEND MASS MINISTERS - 1/13 & 1/14

	Lector	EM	Altar Server
4:30 pm	Monica Caldicott	Gloria Marmol	
7:30 am	Gina Houston	Lori Gajdzik, Brad Frey, Liz Sernett, William Bransley	
9:00 am	John Stefani/Celine Bush	Joanna Majewska, Judy Gallagher, John Tinkham, Michele Johnson	Michael Robson, James Wolff, Sean Kelly
10:30 am	Kathleen Jacobs	Frank Ciangi, Vicki Roberts, Valerie Cuchna, Dawn Ahsmann	Michaela Johnson, Erin Johnson, Lucy Jacobs
12:00 pm	Judy Wiedenfeld	Jerry Lyons	Mitchell Schwartz
5:00 pm		Annette O'Connell	John Paul Nieckula, Sebastian Nieckula

Weekly Collection - December 24	
Sunday Envelopes	\$19,742.91
Online Giving	\$15,903.00
Sunday Offering	\$2,386.00
Total Collection	\$38,031.91
Weekly Tithe	McHenry County Pads

Weekly Collection - Christmas	
Sunday Envelopes	\$31,119.09
Online Giving	\$970.00
Sunday Offering	\$6,433.87
Total Collection	\$38,522.96

That Man is You Starts Again on Jan. 13. Join Us!

If you are looking for a great New Year's resolution consider joining some of the best guys in the parish at That Man is You. We start our second semester session on Saturday, Jan. 13, at 6 a.m., in the Community Center. Join us for breakfast and fellowship and strengthen the important Catholic role you play. Email Greg Ives at gregives@att.net for more information.



Readings for the week of January 7, 2024

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/

Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Monday: Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 (3)/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

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 27, 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"**

Calling All Men of the Parish

St. Thomas the Apostle men's group will start reading the Bishop Robert Barron book that was handed out at the Christmas Masses, "This is My Body. A Call to the Eucharistic Revival", on January 13th.

All men of the parish are invited to join the men's group any Saturday they can make it, at the Lower Level of Oak Street Church, 8:00 am to 9:30 am. Enjoy donuts, fellowship, and of course Faith-based sharing and discussion.

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

Saturday, January 20th

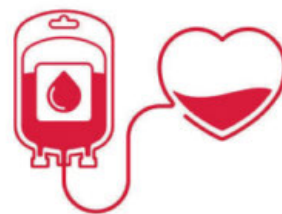
7:30 am to 12:30 pm

- Community Room

Please use the following link to sign up for a time slot to donate blood. The link can also be found on

the St. Thomas website or use the QR code. https://donate.illinois.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/5606089

Any questions, please call John Orso at 815-575-6359.



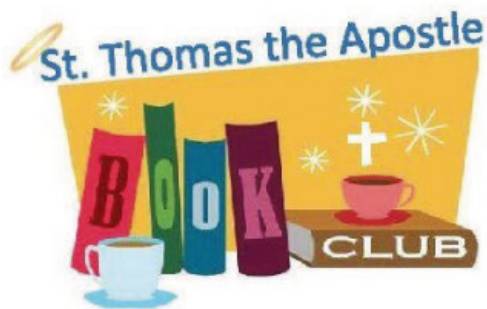
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas and best wishes for a happy New Year! I hope your celebrations have been lifegiving moments of rest and encounter with one another.

Here at the parish, you are aware that we are in the midst of our Eucharistic Revival, which has already been bearing much fruit for our parish. Let's continue to pray for each other and for those who have fallen away from this core teaching of the faith, as well as inviting them to come encounter the true Presence of Christ among us, in the Holy Eucharist. Another opportunity for such an encounter will be on January 16, at 7:00 PM. Deacon Neal Carpenter will preach a holy hour of Adoration in the church at Oak Street. This "Upper Room" will be an opportunity for us as a community to set aside the stress and worries of the recent holiday planning and celebrations and simply let ourselves be approached by the only Person who can truly say to each of our hearts, "I will give you rest". Dcn. Neal will preach briefly on how the Mystery present in the Eucharist approaches us, seen through the experience of his own life, and then there will be praise and worship music played for the rest of the hour by "Way", closing with Benediction (a blessing given by Christ in the Holy Eucharist Himself).

This is a great moment not only to re-find ourselves in Christ's gaze on us but also of a missionary invitation. I encourage each of you to invite just one person to attend, someone who has not been to church in a while or who is coming but is not engaged or does not get a lot out of church, someone who has not yet had that experience of this Presence, the living Jesus, deeply looking upon them. You never know; your invitation and their experience of Jesus that evening might be the beginning of a future saint story, for you and them!

Peace and blessings,
Fr. Linkenheld



Look! A New Book!

"Marcus" (by Fr. Michael Giesler)

Mon 1/8/24, 1/22/24, & 2/5/24
Lower Oak St. Church, 7 - 8:30pm

This fictional story depicts the lives of early Christians in Rome through the eyes of Marcus, a student of philosophy. He finds himself led to share Christ's message of truth and love in spite of many new dangers that he must face.

Please join our fun, lively, faith filled conversation.

Register: 1) Via the QR Code. 2) Via parish website.
3) via form in narthex or at parish center. -or-
Contact: Terry O Hagan 815-236-2345
terry_ohagan@hotmail.com

An Evening of Recollection for Women

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church
451 W Terra Cotta Avenue in Crystal Lake
Monday, January 15 from 7:00 -8:45 pm
Confessions starting at 6:30 pm

Pause. Recollect. Pray. A recollection is an opportunity to recharge and process our thoughts, plans, and actions in the presence of God. It includes adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, meditations led by a priest of Opus Dei, an examination of conscience, and a brief talk. Please join us for refreshments after benediction.

Please contact Monica Blanchette at
blanchette.monica@gmail.com with any questions.

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”

El deber nuestro es anunciar o manifestar la misericordia de Dios en nuestra vida. Dios no quiere nuestras cosas, quiere nuestra persona comprometida con su Hijo Jesús. La Epifanía nos recuerda que Dios es para llegar a todos sin distinción. Anunciar la alegría del Evangelio a otros es una clara manifestación de que Cristo camina a nuestro lado. El Profeta Isaías anima a sus oyentes de la siguiente manera: “Tú entonces, te pondrás radiante, palpitará tu corazón muy emocionado: traerán a ti tesoros del otro lado del mar y llegarán a ti riquezas de las naciones” (Isaías 60,5). San Pablo, también, lo manifiesta como una gracia: “Anunciar a los pueblos paganos la incalculable riqueza de Cristo” (Efesios 8). El reto actual es ver la manera de que cada cristiano manifieste los bienes recibidos por Dios. Somos de muchas culturas diferentes, con un fin único, caminar hacia Dios con Cristo como centro.

El Papa Francisco nos anima a demostrar como el Evangelio de hoy nos hace ser los magos que buscan a Jesús para adorarlo: “La adoración es un gesto de amor que cambia la vida. Es actuar como los Magos: es traer oro al Señor, para decirle que nada es más precioso que Él; es ofrecerle incienso, para decirle que sólo con Él puede elevarse nuestra vida; es presentarle mirra, con la que se ungían los cuerpos heridos destrozados, para pedirle a Jesús que socorra a nuestro prójimo que está marginado y sufriendo, porque allí está Él (01-06-2020). ¡Feliz Año,

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 - 12/24 / Navidad	
Pierson St.	\$3,985.25 / \$2,423.49
Pierson Online	\$155.00

seamos estrella que guía, seamos Evangelio vivo! ©LPi



13 Y 14 DE ENERO DE 2024

La Colecta Nacional refleja la variedad de formas con las que podemos comunicar el mensaje de Cristo. El Papa Francisco nos ha convocado a dedicarnos a expandir el mensaje del Evangelio a todos los que conozcamos.

Una de las maneras con las que podemos hacerlo es participando en el fin de semana del 13 y 14 de enero en nuestra colecta anual para la Colecta Nacional.

Simplemente ofrezca lo que usted pueda para ayudar a promover el Evangelio a través de estas nobles causas.

- Fondo para la Jubilación de Religiosos
- Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano
- Campaña de la Comunicación Católica
- Universidad Católica de América
- Pensión para los sacerdotes de la Diócesis de Rockford
- Ayuda Financiera para Escuela Católica de la Diócesis de Rockford

Por favor traiga el sobre de la Colecta Nacional a la misa o done en línea: www.rockforddiocese.org/donar

¡Muchas gracias por su generosa donación!

Save the date 01.28.24

OPEN HOUSE

Pride | Passion | Tradition **sts**
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

12:30-2:30 p.m.
Visitas en Español Disponibles!

Reserva la fecha 01.28.24

St. Thomas The Apostle Church
and School are Happy To Announce

FAMILY MASS IS BACK!

Sunday, January 14, 2024
10:30AM
Community Center, Oak Street Church
451 W. Terra Cotta Avenue
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Please Join us! All are Welcome!

IF YOUR CHILD OR FAMILY IS INTERESTED IN
PARTICIPATING AS A GREETER, USHER OR LECTOR,
PLEASE CONTACT
SHELBY YOUNGE, SHELBY@THEYOUNGES.COM
(773)426-2195

sts
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Felix & Fingers
Dueling Pianos!

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 10, 2024
<https://vimeo.com/868403800/22c8134762>

**ST. THOMAS COMMUNITY
NIGHT OUT WINTER FUN-RAISER!**

Get tickets now!
Scan Below:



Felix & Fingers Dueling Pianos
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*

ONE IN CHRIST NATIONAL APPEAL

January 13-14, 2024

The National Appeal reflects the varied ways we seek to communicate Christ's message. Pope Francis has called upon us to dedicate ourselves to spreading the Gospel Message to everyone we meet.

One of the ways we could do this is by participating on the weekend of January 13 and 14 in our annual collection for the National Appeal.

Simply offer what you can to help promote the Gospel through these worthy causes:

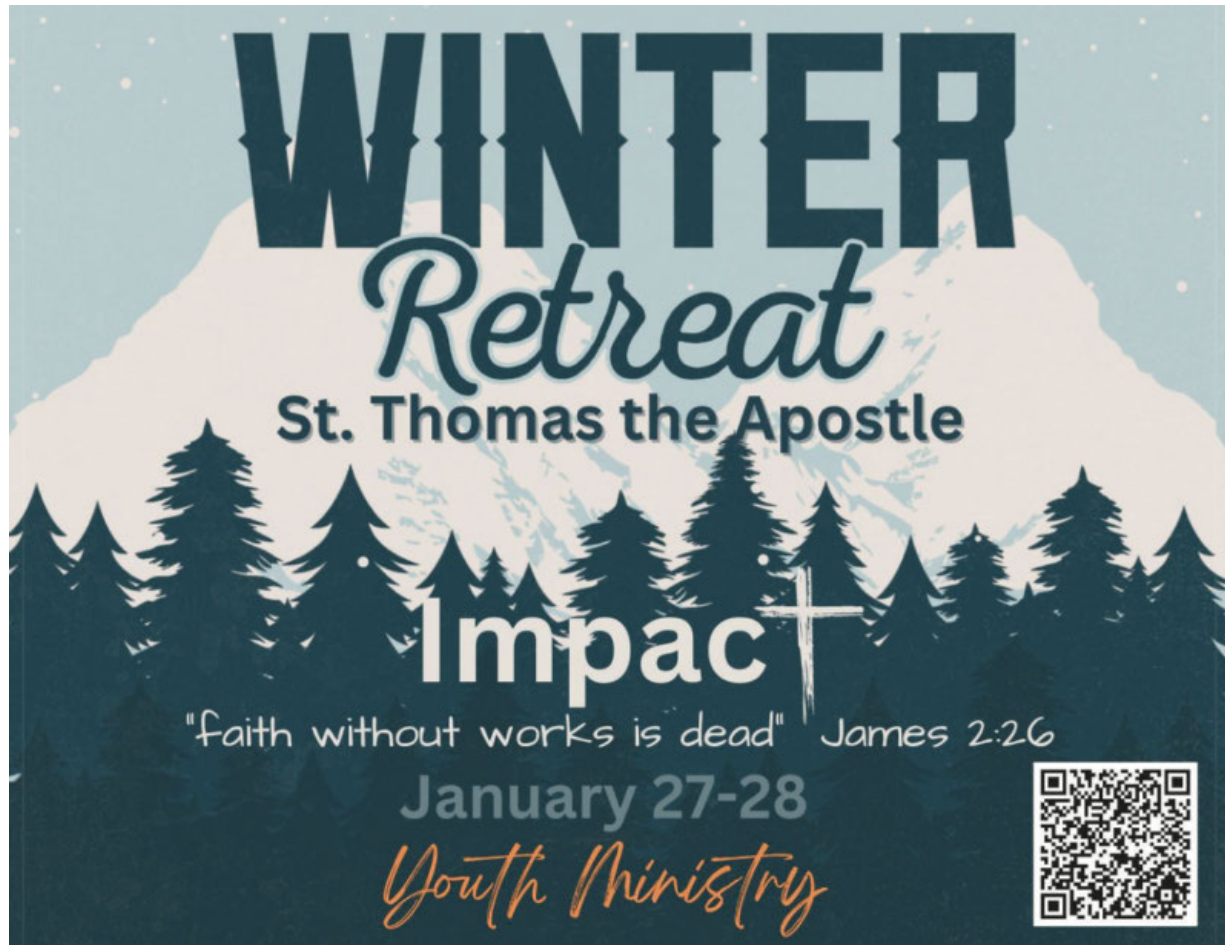
- Retirement Fund for Religious
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Catholic Communication Campaign
- Catholic University of America
- Rockford Diocesan Priests' Pension
- Catholic School Financial Support for the Diocese of Rockford

Please bring the National Appeal envelope to Mass, or donate online at rockforddiocese.org/donate.

Thank you for your generous gift.

Youth Ministry

Wed., Jan. 10 HS Youth Ministry / Nerf War!! / 7 – 8:30 / Grades 9 – 12 / Community Room
Thurs., Jan. 11 Jr. High Youth Ministry / Nerf War!! / 7 – 8:30 / Grades 6 – 8 / Community Room



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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MarkRMoskal@allstate.com



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Jeff Tkachuk

jtkachuk@4LPi.com

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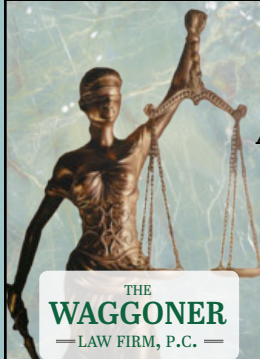
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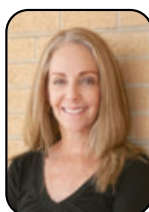
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