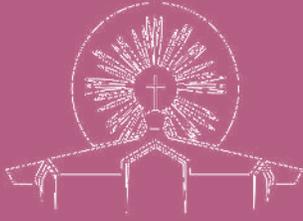


St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church



December 14, 2025 - 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):

Monday: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Saturday: 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

adorationchapelstthomascl@gmail.com

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

Wed. & Thur. 12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Sat. - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Donations accepted: During Store Hours

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

www.marian.com

Cover photo courtesy of CameraLady.com

Connect with us:

www.stthomascl.flocknote.com

www.facebook.com/saintthomascl

www.saintthomascatholicchurch.org

www.stthomascl.org

www.instagram.com/st.thomascl

Pastor: Rev. Robert Jones

Parochial Vicars:

Rev. Charles Fitzpatrick

Rev. Aaron Downing

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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dkothera@stthomascl.church

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jsernett@stthomascl.church

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hermannjulieann@gmail.com

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Emily Holland, Assistant - Ext. 415

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Cindy Huerta - Ext 406

receptiondesk@stthomascl.church

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www.stthomascl.org

From the Pastor's Desk...



When John the Baptist was put in jail for going against Herod's unlawful decision to take his brother's wife, he began to have questions about the ministry of Jesus. Since the ministry style of Jesus was quite different than that of John's, the Baptist had some doubts creep in about Jesus. That is why he sent his disciples to Jesus to ask in his typically very direct way: "Are you he who is to come, or shall we look for another?"

Jesus did not rebuke John for doubting. Rather, he quotes from Isaiah regarding the blind receiving sight, the deaf receiving hearing, the lame being able to walk – to show that the prophecies of old were being fulfilled. Jesus would let John draw in own logical conclusion. Jesus knew that having doubts about our faith can be spiritually healthy, as long as we keep asking the right questions and honestly searching for the truth – which will set us free.

Of course, there are doubts that can be damaging to our spirituality and we must be aware of them. First, doubt can come from sinning. It is well said: "If we do not act as we believe; we will soon begin to believe as we act." If we begin to act clearly contrary to God's will for us, we can come to the point where we justify our behavior by believing we are right and God is wrong. Hopefully, we can all see how this is a very dangerous path.

Second, some doubt has no connection to sin of any kind but comes from a deeply felt disappointment with God. We feel God should have stepped in or acted differently. God should have fulfilled my expectations. Who of us has not had trouble in this area? Probably, this area of expectations is one with which the Baptizer was having trouble. Thankfully, he did not continue to cling to his doubts but put his faith in the prophecy being fulfilled.

Third, some doubt because the Church that claims to represent God sometimes really does not in critical areas. Sometimes members of the People of God (we) do not act in a way that represents God's will. Sometimes they (we) represent God poorly. The Church is not the Messiah, Jesus is. The Church is made up of sinners striving to become saints. Jesus is the perfect model for us to follow. Mary is the perfect model of discipleship.

Doubt often comes from seeking happiness in the wrong places. When we strive to follow God's will and not our own, we will be headed back on the right path. The possibility of reconciling with God when necessary or simply renewing our faith is the reason for today being called "Rejoice Sunday." Our Parish Communal Reconciliation Service is scheduled for this Tuesday, December 16, at 7:00 pm. Come and celebrate your Master's JOY!

Peace, be with you,

Fr. Bob Jones

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 15th

6:30 am Dennison Family (Living & Deceased)
12:10 pm † Maria Kolmar

Tuesday, December 16th

6:30 am † Rachid Idriss
12:10 pm † Kevin Kowasz

Wednesday, December 17th

6:30 am Smorzewski & Cribb Families
(Living & Deceased)
12:10 pm St. Jude Guild Members
(Living & Deceased)

Thursday, December 18th

6:30 am † Janet Bouley
12:10 pm † Amy Odom

Friday, December 19th

6:30 am Eileen Wuchter Family
(Living & Deceased)
12:10 pm † Matthew Dombrow

Saturday, December 20th

7:30 am † Brad Johnson
4:30 pm † Robert Weymouth

Sunday, December 21st

7:30 am The People of St. Thomas the Apostle
Parish (Living & Deceased)
9:00 am † David Byrnes
10:30 am † Geno Wright
12:00 pm † John & Betty Sexton
5:30 pm † George Gregus



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

Parish Calendar

December 14, 2025 - Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Coffee and Donuts (Community Room)
10:00 am O.C.I.A. Class (Lower Oak)
12:00 pm Deadline for Giving Tree Donations
12:00 pm O.C.I.A. at Mass (Oak St. Church)
1:30 pm Parents Afternoon Off (Community Room)

Monday, December 15, 2025*

10:30 am MMP Rosary (Oak St. Church)
5:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)
7:00 pm Women's Evening of Recollection
(Oak St. Church)

Tuesday, December 16, 2025*

7:00 pm Communal Penance Service (Oak St. Church)

Wednesday, December 17, 2025*

12:45 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)
4:30 pm Grade R.E. Classes (Pierson St. Church)
6:00 pm R.E. Family Faith (King St. School)
7:00 pm St. Vincent DePaul Society (Lower Oak)
7:00 pm High School YM (Community Room)

Thursday, December 18, 2025*

6:00 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)
7:00 pm Junior High YM (Community Room)

Friday, December 19, 2025*

12:45 pm Confessions (Oak St. Church)

Saturday, December 20, 2025

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)
6:30 pm Longest Night Prayer Service (Oak St. Church)

December 21, 2025 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Knights Breakfast with Santa (Comm. Room)
9:00 am O.C.I.A. attending Mass (Oak St. Church)
10:00 am O.C.I.A. Class (Lower Oak)

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

Adoration Candle Intentions

Dec. 7 - Dec. 20

Waggoner Family

Marry Family

O'Hagan Family

Herman Family



Celebrant Weekday Masses		
12/15	6:30 am	Fr. Downing
	12:10 pm	Fr. Jones
12/16	6:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:10 pm	Fr. Downing
12/17	6:30 am	Fr. Downing
	12:10 pm	Fr. Jones
12/18	6:30 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	12:10 pm	Fr. Downing
12/19	6:30 am	Fr. Jones
	12:10 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
12/20	7:30 am	Fr. Downing
Celebrant Weekend Masses		
12/20	4:30 pm	Fr. Fitzpatrick
12/21	7:30 am	Fr. Jones
	9:00 am	Fr. Fitzpatrick
	10:30 am	Fr. Downing
	12:00 pm	Fr. Downing
	5:30 pm	Fr. Jones

Sacrament of Reconciliation Schedule St. Thomas the Apostle Church	
Mon., 12/15	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Tues. 12/16	7:00 pm Communal Penance Service
Wed., 12/17	12:45 pm to 2:00 pm
Thur., 12/18	6:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Fri., 12/19	12:45 pm to 2:00 pm
Sat., 12/20	8:00 am to 9:00 am
	3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Mon., 12/22	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Please pray for the Deceased
Gretchen Burroughs
Paul Georgy

WEEKEND MASS MINISTERS - 12/20/25 & 12/21/25			
	Lector	EM	Altar Server
4:30 pm	Patrick Slowey	Michelle Kohlbacher, Gloria Marmol,	
7:30 am	John Streit	Mark Przybylski, Liz Sernett, Lynn Doherty, Eleanore Wojewoda	
9:00 am	Kathleen Jacobs	Jim N., Vicki K., Emily P., Michele J., Dawn A., John T.	Lucy Jacobs, Erin Johnson, Hanna Piekut
10:30 am	Monica Caldicott	Jennifer Widger, Matt Turk, Vicki Roberts, Maureen Carpenter	Jake Polston, Luke Polston, Cade Justen
12:00 pm	Joanna Majewska	Mike Klepitsch	Isabella Costantini, Lauren Dovidio, Ayana Hanes
5:30 pm	Judy Wiedenfeld	Annette O'Connell, Susan Ludwig	

Communal Penance Service

Tuesday, December 16th

7:00 PM - Oak Street Church



Reminder

Please remember that Giving Tree & Operation Support Our Troop items are due no later than noon today, December 14.



Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 (see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17

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

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

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

Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Novena to St. John Paul II

For Life & Against Assisted Suicide in Illinois

Catholics in the Rockford Diocese and in the entire state of Illinois are being urged to contact the Governor and tell him to veto the assisted suicide bill passed by a narrow margin on Oct. 31.

Beginning Monday, December 15, through Tuesday, December 23 (excluding Sunday), we will be reciting the Respect Life Novena to St. John Paul II after the 6:30 am morning Mass and the 12:10 pm afternoon Mass, and after the 7:30 am Saturday Mass at the Oak St. Church (approx. 20 minutes). Copies of the Novena are located on the Ministry of Hope table in the Narthex. Please join us in praying for respect life.

Vocational Raffle

On behalf of the Knights of Columbus and the seminarians of the Diocese of Rockford, we want to thank each and every person who contributed to the Vocational Raffle. Your support and generosity was overwhelming and allows the K of C to achieve 100% of our goal. Thank you very much and have a wonderful holiday season.

“Longest Night” Prayer Service

Saturday, December 20, 2025 - 6:30 pm

St. Thomas Oak St. Church

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish will be hosting a Prayer Service on Saturday, December 20, 2025, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm (includes fellowship) for those experiencing loneliness, personal loss, or illness during the holiday season.



This Prayer Service to be held at St. Thomas Oak St. Church (451 W. Terra Cotta Avenue) in Crystal Lake will include scripture readings, music and reflections. Fellowship will follow the Prayer Service. Come and ask our Lord to keep us in His safe embrace.

Mówimy Po Polsku?? Well, get your Polish ready, St. Thomas! The Annual *Fr. McCormick's Knights of Columbus Council 3880* Polish Dinner is coming! We are getting ready to serve up all of the scrumptious menu with *Irene Skaja's* Beef Barley Mushroom soup, Roast Pork, Polish Sausage, and Pierogi to name a few. Don't forget to save room for some Kolczki and Raspberry Nalesniki!

Mark your calendar for

Saturday, January 31, 2026. Doors open at 5:45 pm to the Oak Street Community Room.

We welcome back the Polonia Ensemble Dancers this year. A great evening for a low price, \$25.00 per adult, and \$10.00 per child. **Tickets will be on sale at during our Santa breakfast December 21st and after Sunday Masses through January 25, 2026.**

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815.338.4220 x124 - lkirwan@marian.com



Christmas Flower Donations 2025

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 2025", no later than December 24. Please place the envelope in the Sunday collection basket, in the Tithe box in the Narthex or drop off at the Parish Office. Thank you to help beautify our Churches during this Christmas Season.

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 Tithe box or in the slot on the library door.

Rorate Caeli Mass

On **Monday, December 15 at 6:30 a.m.**, Father Downing will celebrate a **pre-dawn, candlelight Rorate Caeli Mass**. This beautiful Advent liturgy honors **Mary, the Mother of our Lord**, and her role in bringing the Light of the World into a darkened world.

At the beginning of Mass, the church will be lit solely by candlelight and will gradually brighten with the dawning of the sun, symbolizing the coming of **Christ, the Eternal Light**. As St. Paul reminds us, "*hope does not disappoint.*" Throughout Advent, during this Jubilee Year, we will reflect on the hope kindled by the Light of Christ.

As we await Jesus' birth with joyful hope this season, we invite you to join us in this reverent, traditional Advent Mass.

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
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”

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

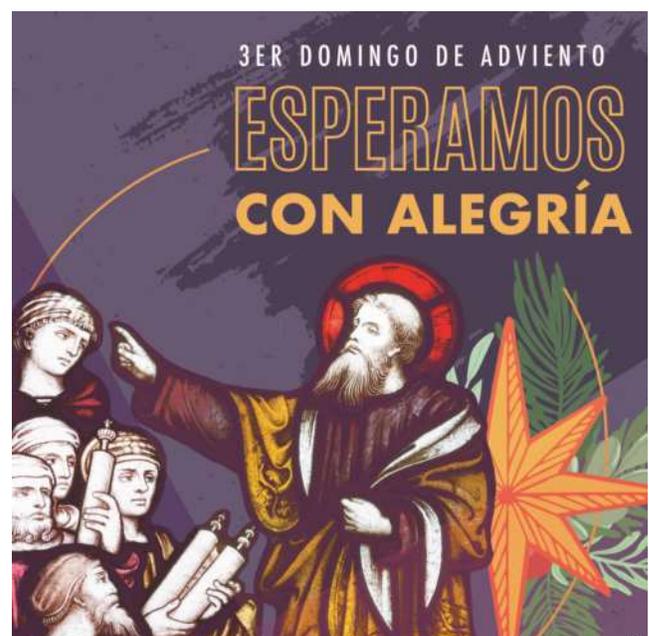


¿Dónde está nuestra esperanza en este tercer domingo de Adviento? ¿En qué se basa nuestra alegría? Este domingo es llamado el domingo de la alegría, porque ya estamos acercándonos a la Navidad. En latín se conoce como *Gaudete*, que significa “alegría” o “regocíjense”. El verdadero gozo consiste en el nacimiento del Salvador, siendo este nacimiento la causa profunda de nuestra alegría. A veces perdemos mucho tiempo en las tiendas, comprando regalos, sin siquiera darnos cuenta de que el tiempo pasa y se va sin provecho alguno para nuestra alma. Miremos al cielo, de donde nos llega la esperanza y la gracia. Ahí es donde está Dios.

El Evangelio nos narra que Juan estaba en la cárcel y quería saber si era verdad lo que había escuchado sobre Jesús. La respuesta para Juan fue la siguiente: “*Vayan y cuéntenle a Juan lo que ustedes están viendo y oyendo: los ciegos ven, los cojos andan, los leprosos quedan limpios, los sordos oyen, los muertos resucitan, y una Buena Nueva llega a los pobres*” (Mateo 11:5). Con esta respuesta, Juan quedó lleno de esperanza, seguro de que el Reino de Dios ya estaba presente.

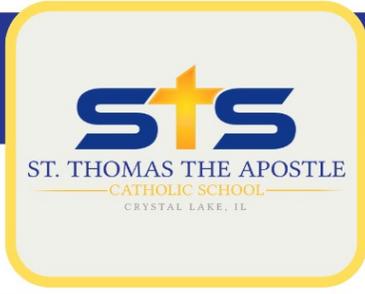
Juan predicaba la conversión, un cambio de mentalidad radical, válido tanto entonces como ahora. Para nosotros, la venida del Salvador es un hecho seguro y esperanzador. Sin embargo, solo los pobres de espíritu logran visualizarlo en el horizonte de la Navidad. Aguardemos con paciencia los regalos de la gracia de Dios: la paz y el amor entre nosotros, que tanto necesitamos. ¡Ven, Señor Jesús!

©LPi





Happy Gaudete Sunday!



Advent at St. Thomas School

How is St. Thomas the Apostle School celebrating Advent?

- Classroom Advent Wreaths
- Angelus Prayed Daily Together with weekly reflection
- 2nd & 3rd Grade Christmas Pageant
- Christmas Concert (PK - 5)
- Immaculate Conception Mass
- Posada Celebration
- Reconciliation - all grades eligible

Week 1 HOPE

Thank you Lord, for the **HOPE** of your perfect plan, help us to trust more fully.

Week 2 LOVE

Think of the perfection of **LOVE** in Mary's yes to God's plan.

Week 3 JOY

Our hearts of full of **JOY** for the coming of our redeemer!

Week 4 PEACE

May we the know the **PEACE** that only God can provide.

Angelus

The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary and She conceived of the Holy Spirit

Hail Mary

Behold the Handmaid of the Lord Be it done unto me according to thy word

Hail Mary

And the Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us

Hail Mary

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen



Upcoming Dates:

Dec 17	Red Robin fundraiser
Dec 18	Christmas Pageant
Dec 19	Posada
Dec 19	Class Parties



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Show this flyer or simply mention the fundraiser to your server to have your sales counted.

FUNDRAISER DETAILS
 441 S. Randall Rd, Algonquin, IL 60102
 December 17, 2025*

If ordering online, please follow these instructions:

- 1 Start your order at redrobin.com/order and select the restaurant above.
- 2 In the menu, go to the category labeled "Fundraisers (To-Go Only)" and click on that item.
- 3 Click the "add" button, and then "add to bag."
- 4 Add your meal items and check out.
- 5 Arrive at Red Robin, come in, say hi, grab your food and be on your way! If your location has curbside pick-up, we can bring it to your car too!

*Fundraiser during restaurant operating hours. Visit redrobin.com and find this location to view hours. Donation based on all eligible net dine-in and to-go food sales only. Excludes sales from catering (at select locations), 3rd party ordering and delivery sites, alcohol, gift cards, retail, tax and gratuity. Offer valid if flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant during fundraiser day & hours.



sts
 ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
 CATHOLIC SCHOOL
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Trivia Night

Hosted by the Home & School Association

Save the Date
February 7, 2026

More information to follow



SAVE THE DATE
 Day of Giving
January 28th

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FOR WOMEN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2025

7:00PM - 8:30PM

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE
CATHOLIC CHURCH

451 W TERRA COTTA AVENUE IN
CRYSTAL LAKE

CONFESSION BEGINS AT 6:30 PM

COME ENJOY THE SEASON OF ADVENT WITH TIME OF
PRAYER AND REFELECTION.
PLEASE JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS
AFTER BENEDICTION.

St. Thomas Catholic Church

Catholic Mom's Group



supporting each other in faith and motherhood

Second Tuesday of the Month | 7:30-9 pm | Community Room

Beginning January 2026



Knights of Columbus Annual

"Breakfast with Santa!"

It's getting close!!! Soon the **Jolly Old Elf** will be making his annual appearance at the **Fr. McCormick Council Knights of Columbus** monthly breakfast on **December 21st** in the Parish Community Room. Mark your calendar as 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...Stop in before or after Mass next Sunday!

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!

Knights of Columbus Blood Drive

Saturday, January 10th

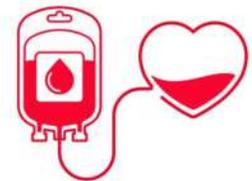
7:30 am to 12:30 pm - Community Room

Please use the following link or QR code to sign up for a time slot to donate blood.

The link can also be found on the St.

Thomas website. If you have questions, please contact John Orso 815-575-6359.

[https://
donateblood.versiti.org/
donor/schedules/
drive_schedule/11598737](https://donateblood.versiti.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/11598737)





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- Harmony
- Meridian

Descuento cuando tiene seguro privado. No copago!!

Use los beneficios de su seguro antes de que acabe el año!

Llámenos para hacer una cita pronto!

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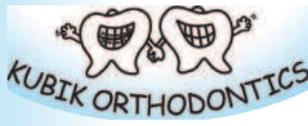
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