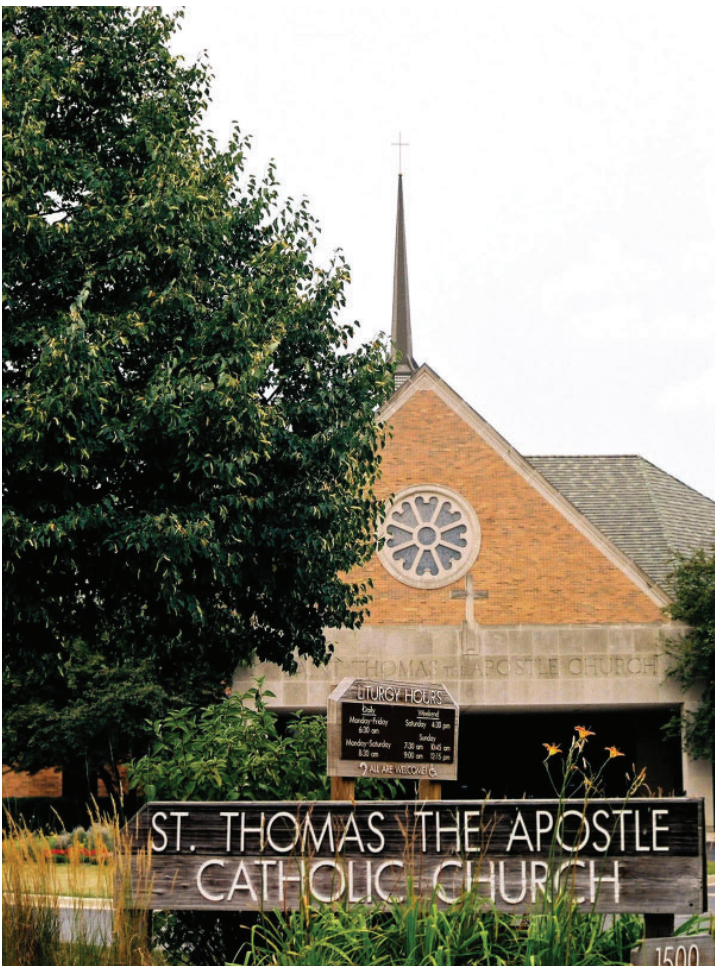


Discover St. Thomas

A place to call home



*A place to find balance
A place to find community
A place to find answers
A place to quiet oneself
A place to pray
A place to be grounded
A place to be heard
A place to feel safe
A place to step back
A place to find rest
A place to refocus
A place to reflect
A place of authenticity
A place to find strength
A place to be challenged
A place where you are the difference
A place where you are needed*

*A place where your spiritual gifts are valued
A place of hope
A place of support
A place to discover God
A place to make contact with holiness
A place to know the human Jesus
A place to continue the journey
A place to stretch your mind
A place to discover the singular truth of Jesus' life
A place to find clarity
A place to share vision
A place to let go of fear
A place for radical faith
A place where hunger is satisfied
A place of hope*



Led by the Holy Spirit, rooted in the Eucharist, St. Thomas the Apostle strives to be an inclusive servant community—to be Christ in the World. We bear the Good News of God's unconditional love to all generations through worship, faith formation, witness, and service.

*—St. Thomas the Apostle
Parish Mission Statement*



Led by the Holy Spirit,

Welcome to St. Thomas! Moves, even good moves, moving to a new community, a new home, or a new parish, are stressful. We want to be a spiritual home, a support community, that can help you sink new roots and find support for yourself and your family in your relationship with God and with others.

In a word, we want to help you be at home with the Lord and with other believing people who can share, nourish, and support you and your values as a family striving to live a Christian life.

To that end we are a Worship driven parish where our spiritual and liturgical life is central. It is from the heart of our worship and sacramental life that the life giving energy of the Holy Spirit flows through and enables each of the ministries of our parish, as life blood through the body.

*We want to help
you be at home with
the Lord.*

*We are a Worship
driven parish where
our spiritual and
liturgical life is
central.*

*We are called by Jesus to
continue his mission in
our place and time*

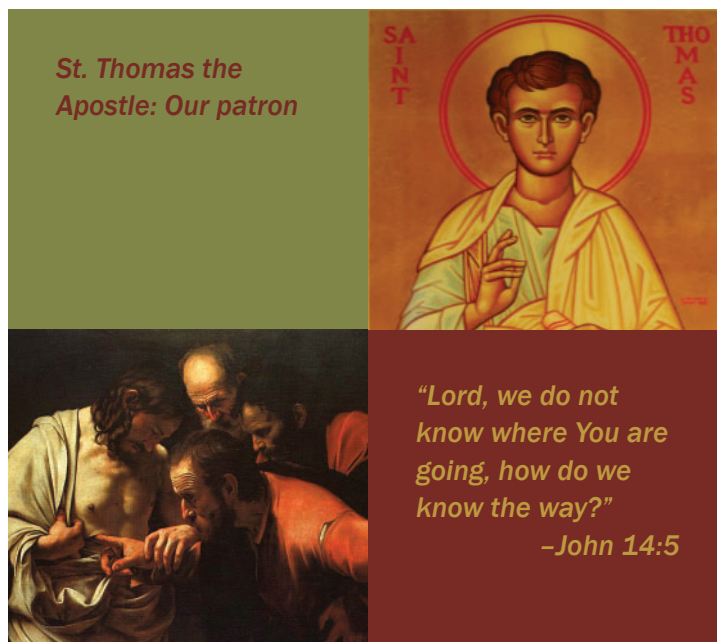
We want to help you and your family come to know and deepen your relationship with Jesus in a conscious way, to be alive in your faith, to give you the energy you need to grow in your life. In this way we experience the joy and love of the Lord that transforms our lives.

We do this as a community of faith, so you will see in this brochure some description of all our Commissions and Ministries by which we live and grow and carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus in our time and our place.

rooted in the Eucharist,

We welcome you warmly to the venture that is St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church!

Yours in Christ,



IN THIS BROCHURE

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1500 Brookdale Rd.
Naperville, IL 60563
630-355-8980
www.stapostle.org

Liturgy and Music

The word "Liturgy" means "the work of the people."



St. Thomas the Apostle strives to be an

We grow in discipleship because we are nourished by the Eucharist; we bond with the community via the real presence of the Lord.

One of the first things you may have noticed about St. Thomas is the high level of participation during the liturgy. Between the choir, the lectors, the altar servers, the host-greeters, the Extraordinary Ministers of Communion and the congregation nearly every member in attendance at Mass is involved in some way. Worship is sanctified by its very nature, but it is also made holy through the spoken and silent prayers of the community, it is strengthened by sacred music and supported by the involvement of lay ministers. Communal worship is spiritually nourishing: we also recognize that worship is best understood as being a familiar part of life as opposed to being thought of as a Sunday obligation. Its threads are woven into our lives and joined to our relationships with others and all of God's creation. Liturgy does not happen only at the altar on Sunday, it is something we give witness to every day of the week.

At St. Thomas, we attempt to break open the meaning of the word Liturgy, which means "the work of the people." As a



As a Eucharistic people, we are the hands and feet of Christ

*Through worship we
can touch the holy
mystery of God*

Eucharistic people, we are the hands and feet of Christ, and we endeavor to draw the liturgy into our lives and make each day holy. We grow in discipleship because we are nourished by the Eucharist; we bond with the community through the real presence of the Lord. Our awareness that we are all interconnected to Christ and to one another informs our lives and gives us the strength to *be* Christ in the World.

*Discover how to bring
worship into your
life and life into your
worship*

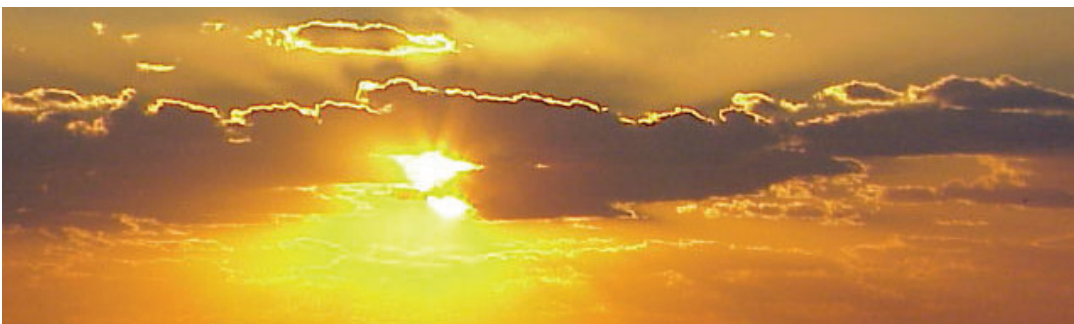
DO YOU FEEL CALLED?

Lector
Eucharistic Minister
Host Greeter
Altar Server
Liturgy Preparation
Sacristan
Temple Keeper
Care of Linens
Wedding Host
Art & Environment
Bread Baker
Seamstress
Liturgical Dance
Media Ministry
**Vocal Choirs
for all ages**
Handbell Choir
Instrumentalist
**Children's Liturgy of
the Word**

inclusive servant community—

Our purpose in coming together to praise God and be nourished by the Eucharist is further solidified when we actively participate in the Liturgy. Through worship we can touch the holy mystery of God. If we allow it, the windows of our souls are opened and permit us to yield to God's desire for us through our love for one another. This understanding extends to the manner in which the community of St. Thomas celebrates sacramental milestones, such as when Baptism and First Eucharist are incorporated into the structure of weekend Masses. We all share God's joy!

At St. Thomas you will discover how to bring worship into your life and life into your worship through communal and private prayer, ongoing spiritual formation, opportunities to express your responsibility as a baptized Catholic and by going out into the world to continue Christ's work.



Think of St. Thomas
as your extended
family

Faith Formation/ Religious Education for Youth

Did you know that every parent is his or her child's first and most important teacher of the Catholic faith? The family, regardless of size or makeup, is the domestic church: a small Christian community through which all members grow in love for one another through the love of Christ. Often what begins very simply with stories of Jesus and nighttime prayers becomes more challenging as a child matures. Passing on the faith quickly moves into a realm in which many parents feel unqualified: perhaps they believe they do not have adequate knowledge to teach their children, or even if they do, are at a loss when it comes to knowing what to teach when, and if they are doing it correctly. Parents often experience a sense of relief knowing there are other adults who can pass on the faith to their children. However, children grow in faith as a result of sharing the walk with their parents, and the daily motions of family life become enriched when every member of the family learns what it is to belong to the community of Christ.



—to be Christ in the World.

Think of St Thomas as your extended family. We strive to companion you as you traverse the hills and valleys of family life. We understand it is not always easy to talk about one's own faith with children or share our spiritual insights with them, but that effort shows that God is already at work in those conversations.

Let the
children
come to
me...





Faith formation cultivates the entire person: mind, body and spirit. Therefore, on every level—elementary, junior high, and high school—St. Thomas offers guidance, resources, and classes for parents in addition to the religious education program for children. We never “graduate” from faith formation; it is an ongoing effort, and families who walk this path together will continue to grow in faith as they strive to know and serve God in Jesus’ name, and bring about God’s reign right here and now.

We believe that growing in faith and discipleship occurs naturally in a relaxed and fun Christ-centered environment where each person is accepted without judgement. Children and teenagers who are excited about issues of faith form connections to the community and ultimately go on to incorporate acts of discipleship such as

We bear the Good News

offering service to others, maintaining a rich prayer life, engaging in ongoing formation, and making ministry a natural part of their life. This environment exists right here with the St. Thomas Faith Formation/Religious Education for Youth Program.

We are here for you.



Faith formation cultivates the entire person: mind, body and spirit.



DO YOU FEEL CALLED?

- Catechist**
- Catechist Aide/Helper**
- Nursery**
- Crossing Guard**
- Scripture Safari**
(Summer Bible School)
- Rainbows**
(Grief program for children)
- Plan family activities**
- Lead Protecting God’s Children Program**
- Enrichment programs & workshops**
- Teens with Character**
- Parenting workshops**
- Grandparents program**
- Explore scripture with teenagers**
- QUEST leader**
- Chaperone**
- Sports Ministry**
- Youth Mass**

WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENTS AND THEIR IMPORTANCE IN OUR FAITH JOURNEY

Baptism is usually celebrated two to three Sundays each month: at 1:45 p.m. and during weekend Masses on selected dates throughout the year, except during Lent. Parents must attend an awareness and renewal program. Contact the main office at 630-355-8980.

First Reconciliation and First Communion are celebrated by children who have had two consecutive years of religious formation in preparation for the Sacraments and indicate readiness. Parents must attend preparation meetings. Call the Faith Formation office – 630-305-6318.

Confirmation is celebrated by teens who have completed the preparatory Quest program and have met other requirements. Contact the Youth Minister at 630-355-8980 x123.

Marriage An engaged couple should contact the church office at least 6 months in advance. The bride, groom, or their parents must be registered in the parish for at least 3 months before a date can be scheduled. Contact the main office at 630-355-8980.

Faith Formation and Spirituality

All relationships require care and attention, and provide opportunities for giving and receiving. And just as we desire rich and satisfying relationships with our spouse, children and friends, it often comes as a surprise to realize that God longs for us in the same way. That sense of incompleteness which is so much part of the human condition can be understood theologically as the spiritual image in which we were created seeking its reflection in the face of God.

St. Thomas offers multiple opportunities to know God more intimately, to develop, deepen and strengthen that relationship regardless of one's position in terms of readiness, availability, or location on the path of spiritual growth. This faith community can companion you along the way.

Common to human nature are complementary behaviors which if cultivated will lead to a more balanced life, such as periods of physical activity and intervals of rest. Likewise the walk of the

of God's unconditional

Christian includes both devotion and practice; being and doing. Both sides are crucial to mature discipleship. The word disciple means student and by virtue of our baptism, we are Jesus' students. Our knowledge of our Creator increases with each liturgy and with each Eucharist. And when we give in to our desire to understand our faith, the mysteries revealed through tradition often begin to make sense at unexpected times and places. Every moment has the capacity to become sacramental when time is set aside for frequent private prayer, reflection on

*Every moment has
the capacity to
become sacramental*





The word disciple means student and we, by virtue of our baptism, are Jesus' students.

God's word and discernment; even the simplest actions take on the reflection of Christ.

Faith formation is an open ended process which begins with information and leads to an ongoing transformation that grows in depth and texture as we stretch, question, and yes, even doubt. We flex our spiritual muscles and apply newly discovered insights both as a balm for our hurts and as a libation for our joys, incorporating into our lives what the Spirit has started. The words of St. Paul (*1 Cor 11:23*) "I hand on to you what was handed on to me" become our own as we learn to live the faith with enthusiasm and recognize moments of consolation with clarity in our own domestic churches where we hand on the faith to our families.

love to all generations

You are invited to deepen your relationship with God through one or more of the many excellent programs, speaking engagements, and ongoing group studies sponsored by St. Thomas Faith Formation and Spirituality.

We apply spiritual insights both as a balm for our hurts and as a libation for our joys.



The walk of the Christian includes both devotion and practice; being and doing.

DO YOU FEEL CALLED?

R.C.I.A.

(Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Baptism Preparation

Marriage Preparation

Spiritual Advisory Community

Retreats

Intergenerational Faith Experiences

Charismatic Prayer

Sophia's Circle (for women)

Men's Christian Fellowship

Soul Searchers

Meditation Group

Bible Study

Gatherings (small faith communities)

ALPHA

S.T.A.F.F.S

(St. Thomas Adult Faith Formation & Spirituality)

Marriage Enrichment

Ecumenical Outreach

Library Volunteer

Celebration of the Arts



When people say yes to Pastoral Care, God is already at work.



Pastoral Care/ Faith Community Nursing

Sometimes life presents itself in ways which hasten the need for support and guidance from the caring community of the Church. We are often overwhelmed by our experiences and being able to turn to the Church for pastoral care is a great comfort. St. Thomas Pastoral Care/Faith Community Nursing offers ministries of support, prayer and sacrament in response to the healing mission of the Church. Whether the need calls for a listening presence, someone to pray with or additional prayer support from the larger community, spiritual companionship for the sick, the dying and their families, help making sense of end-of-life issues, finding support groups, promoting good health, or assistance identifying the need for professional care with issues of depression, dependency and family life, we are here for you.

In addition, as stewards of our bodies we know that maintaining our physical health is essential to answering the call to discipleship. Ongoing services such as blood pressure

through worship, faith formation,

screening, blood drives, health education programs, and guest speakers on important health-related topics are offered throughout the year.

When people say “yes” to Pastoral Care, God is already at work. We clearly recognize this in one another and witness every day the movement of the Spirit through those who need and those who provide. We all grow in discipleship together.

St. Thomas Pastoral Care/Faith Community Nursing is affiliated with Central DuPage Hospital and CNS (Community Nursing Services), is staffed by Registered Nurses and trained ministers, and is overseen by both agencies and subscribes to all privacy laws and regulations.



DO YOU FEEL CALLED?

Wholistic Health Committee

Ministers of Care

Ministers to the Seriously Ill

Befriending

Parish Nursing

Elizabeth Ministry

Prayer Network

Support Groups

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Rosary Ministry

Outreach and Social Justice

St. Thomas Outreach and Social Justice exists for everyone.

Every day we are given opportunities to live out the Gospel. Jesus taught us how to love one another and redefined the meaning of justice. His instruction by example makes it clear that whether we are at home, in the workplace, or in the local or global community we cannot ignore the cry of the needy.

St. Thomas Outreach and Social Justice offers several distinct ways for parishioners of every age and ability to continue Jesus' work and be His hands and feet. Multiple ministries serving various needs exist so everyone can take action, serve God's people, live out the Church's teachings on Social Justice and understand what this means for all of creation. Sometimes the need is local; perhaps even in our own home. St. Thomas Outreach and Social Justice exists for everyone.

The Social Justice Model begins with Awareness: something we

witness, and service.

see or hear strikes a chord in our heart. Next comes Education: we are moved to learn more about what we see or hear. Then we are called to Action: to serve God's people in some way. Through all of this, we are centered in prayer and a faith that is our beacon and our strength. We can take action as a response to an intellectual goal of "doing what is right" or "giving back to the community," but when we are centered in prayer and in faith, we fulfill Jesus' call to "Love one another". It is then that we are transformed and move into right relationship with those we serve. Outreach and Social Justice Ministries offer countless opportunities to experience this transformation, to see Christ, and to evolve our world into Christ's kingdom.

DO YOU FEEL CALLED?

- Aurora Soup Kitchen**
- Care Pantry**
- Care with God's Creation**
- DuPage United**
- Feed My Starving Children**
- Food drives**
- Good Samaritans**
- Habitat for Humanity (Mississippi)**
- Haiti Twinning**
- Jobs Ministry**
- JustFaith**
- Justice & Peace**
- P.A.D.S (Public Action to Deliver Shelter-DuPage PADS, Hesed House PADS)**
- Pax Christi**
- Prison Ministry**
- Pro-Life**
- Racial Justice**
- St. Vincent de Paul**
- S.T.E.P. (Steps to Eliminating Poverty)**
- Teens with Character**
- Transitional Housing**



Every day we are given opportunities to live out the Gospel.



DO YOU FEEL CALLED?

PARISH LIFE:

Social Planning

Donut Sunday and Saturday Socials

50 & Holding

Nursery Co-op

Baby-sitters

Pat-a-Cake Ministry

College Age Ministry

Young Adult Ministry

Single Adult Ministry

Cultural Awareness

Funeral Ministry

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Commission

Welcome Committee

C.R.E.W.

(Connect. Respond. Engage. Welcome)

ADMINISTRATION

Finance Committee

Collection Counter

Building & Grounds

Gardeners

Technology

Marketing and Communications

Human Resources

Safety & Security

Receptionists

Parish Life

We worship together; we pray together; and we minister together. We also like to have some fun while getting to know one another better. In addition to a variety of social events occurring throughout the year, several ongoing groups and ministries exist to nurture the social and relational needs of the parish community.

Stewardship

Everything we have, indeed, all that we are is gifted to us by God. Each of us is a steward of one another in the Body of Christ, and a steward of the Church. We know that as good stewards we generously share our time, talent and treasure in order to fulfill God's plan for all of creation. At St. Thomas good stewardship surrounds every aspect of what we do. It multiplies our blessings and allows us to give witness to the Gospel, to serve God and each other, and to work for peace and unity among all of God's people.



As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.

-1Peter 4:10

Administration

There's no place like home, that is unless you are referring to St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church. We strive to create an attractive, comfortable, safe and secure environment where every member can grow closer to God, learn the Catholic faith, serve one another, and develop friendships. We want you to always know you are welcome here, and work to ensure our facilities reflect that. We are poised to respond to you by being available to discuss your needs in person or over the telephone, and keep in touch by communicating available services within the parish as well as to the greater community via our parish website and regular publications. We process and treat your donations with integrity and gratitude, and hope you will embrace this community as your spiritual home. *Welcome!*