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.

Advent Wreath Prayer
First Sunday of Advent
(light one candle)

Many families do the lighting of the candles at the main meal in the evening. A suggested prayer for the candle lighting for the first week of Advent is:

One Candle is Lit

“Heavenly Father, as we begin this Advent, give light to our eyes and peace to our hearts. May the Lord find us watching and waiting in joy when He comes. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
For Your Information…

New to Saint Thomas Parish?
Being a member means celebrating and making a commitment to Jesus Christ. If you are new to Crystal Lake, or if you have not yet become a member of Saint Thomas, we encourage you to consider joining our community in worship and ministry.

Sacrament of Baptism
Celebrated every Sunday at 1:00 PM. Class, which is held once a month, is required. Parishioners are asked to please call the Parish Secretary at the Parish Office at (815)455-5400 extension 400 to schedule both the Class and Baptism dates. Please note that baptisms are not held during Lent.

Sacrament of Reconciliation—Oak Street Church
Every Saturday, 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM; 3:30 PM to 4:15 PM, Every Monday at 5:30 pm, or anytime by appointment.

Sacrament of Confirmation
Confirmation is celebrated in our parish by the Bishop of the Diocese. There is a two-year preparation for youth 8th grade or older. Contact the Youth Ministry office at (815)455-9037.

Sacrament of Marriage
Couples planning to marry are encouraged to make arrangements at least six months prior to the wedding date. Please contact the Pastoral Center at (815)455-5400 extension 400.

Adult Christian Initiation
If you are interested in RCIA, (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) or learning more about the Catholic Faith tradition, please contact Father Akan Simon at the Pastoral Center (815) 455-5400, ext. 403. Adults interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation can call the Pastoral Center (815)455-5400.

Marian Prayer Group
The rosary is prayed every morning in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel at 7:00 am after Mass. Our Saturday devotion concentrates on our Blessed Mother of Medjugorje with meditation prayer and rosary.

Eucharistic Adoration
Pews in the Holy Hearts Chapel can accommodate approximately 30 people at one time; Every one can come and adore during the hours of 6:00 am to 10:00 pm—Chapel will be open; Security cards will be needed to enter during the hours of 10:00 pm to 6:00 am; If you wish to apply for a security card, please stop in at the Parish Offices to pick up the form; Any questions, please contact adorationchapel@saintthomascatholicchurch.org.

Saint Thomas the Apostle School
Saint Thomas the Apostle School is a Catholic Pre-3 through 8th grade elementary school serving both the parish communities of Saint Thomas the Apostle and Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. Every student in our Catholic school receives a strong foundation in all core subjects – Religion, Reading, English, Math, Science, and Social Studies, along with regular classes in Spanish, Computer Technology, Music, Art and Physical Education. For more information, contact Gina Houston, principal at (815)459-0496.

Religious Education Classes
Weekly classes are held for pre-schoolers through 6th grade on Tuesday & Wednesday, from mid-fall through April. Preparation for First Eucharist and First Reconciliation is also given under the direction of the Director of Religious Education. For more information on the program, please contact Charlotte Kolodzik at (815) 455-9787.

Junior High & High School Youth Ministry
We offer many opportunities for faith, fun and service. All youth are welcome! For more information, contact Joshua Goodman, Youth Minister, or Lisa Kendzior (Junior High) in the Office of Youth Ministry at (815)455-9037.

Weekly Bulletin Articles
All articles for the Sunday Weekly Bulletin must be turned in Friday, (9 days previous) for consideration of publication in the following Sunday bulletin. Articles should be typed for legibility and accuracy. Insertions may run for a maximum of two weeks consecutively. Please contact Donna Kothera, Parish Secretary, at (815)455-5400, ext. 400.

Hispanic Ministry
Father William Tunarosa offers ministry to the Hispanics of our Parish and of this area. Sunday Masses for the Hispanic are at 9:30 am AND 11:30 am in our Church on Pierson Street. Mass on Thursday evening is at 7:30 pm, AND on Saturday evening at 7:00 pm. Father’s office number 815-356-0860. To schedule baptisms, please call Father Tunarosa at 815-356-0860.
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the coming King guide and strengthen you this week!

You know, I used to be terrible when it came to New Year’s Resolutions! I was like the many Americans who fill our health clubs every January 2nd, only to empty them again by Epiphany. Then, it hit me. A calendar year is a calendar year. A liturgical year is officially called a “Year of Grace,” i.e., a Year of God’s Help. If I’m going to keep my resolutions, I need God’s help. Make a resolution this weekend, and see what happens!

If you are looking for a good resolution for this new year, look no further! “An unexamined life is a life not worth living,” said the wise Aristotle. Before going to sleep tonight, take a minute to look at your bed. Think to yourself, “What if I don’t wake up tomorrow? What will I be most proud of? What will I be most ashamed of?” Then talk to God about these answers; thank Him, and tell Him you’re sorry. Three minutes a day, and, by Christ the King 2019, I promise a new and improved you!

As this Advent season begins, we call to mind that, as Christians, just like our Lady and St. Joseph, we live in between the two comings of Christ. The first was humble, the second will be glorious. Lord, help us celebrate the first, and prepare for the second!

This Sunday is also an opportunity to start the year with a clean slate. Usually, you confess your sins to me or another priest. Today, I reverse. If there has ever been a time when I was not the face of Christ for you, I am very sorry. Thank you for forgiving me, and for praying for my continued growth in virtue.

Until next week, know that I remain

Yours in the Heart of Christ,

Fr. Evans
Mass Intentions

Monday, December 3, 2018
6:30 AM (Oak) +The Souls of the Faithful Departed
+Timothy Light
8:30 AM (Oak) Msgr. Daniel Hermes (Special Intention)
+Iluminada Ponsaran

Tuesday, December 4, 2018
6:30 AM (Oak) +The Souls of the Faithful Departed
8:30 AM (Oak) +Raymond L. Pe
+Bob Follmer

Wednesday, December 5, 2018
6:30 AM (Oak) +Brian Berg
7:50 AM (Pierson) +The Souls of the Faithful Departed
+Robert Farrish

Thursday, December 6, 2018
6:30 AM (Oak) +The Souls of the Faithful Departed
8:30 AM (Oak) +Thomas Stapleton
+Mary Cericola

Friday, December 7, 2018
6:30 AM (Oak) Francis J. Barciak, Jr. (Special Intention)
8:30 AM (Oak) +Robert E. Thomas
5:30 PM (Oak) +The Souls of the Daughters of Mary
Mother of Mercy Sisters
7:00 PM (Oak) JoCarol Jones (Special Intention)

Saturday, December 8, 2018
5:00 AM (Oak) Hispanic Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass
No 7:30 AM
9:00 AM (Oak) Moran Family (Special Intention)
+Ralph Alfus
10:30 AM (Oak) Father John Evans (Special Intention)
4:30 PM (Oak) +Les and Emma Ream
+Ben Puccinelli

Second Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 9, 2018
7:30 AM (Oak) The People of St. Thomas the Apostle
Parish, Living and Deceased
9:00 AM (Oak) +Mike Schuch
+Hartley and Sulek Families
10:30 AM (Oak) +Brian Belke
12:00 PM (Oak) Ryan Family, Living and Deceased
+Lucille Jerzak
5:30 PM (Oak) +Tom Staniszewski

ADORATION CHAPEL CANDLES
DEDICATED FOR THE PERIOD
Through December 8, 2018
Ferraro Family Kensick Family
Makowski Family Rule Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24
Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37
Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27
Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38
Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11;
Lk 3:1-6

Please pray for all those in our Parish who are sick:
Bill Genzler Carol Stroman

Please pray for all the deceased:
Carol Boulet
Marilyn (Sis) Apostol
Joseph Raiman
If you would like Saint Jude's Guild to pray
for the special intention of a loved one who is living and in
need of prayers, please contact Georgia Kostur at 815-459-
5432.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
NEWLY BAPTIZED CATHOLIC
Victoria Jane Jimenez Montero
(child of Francisca Jimenez Montero)

CHRISTMAS WAFERS (OPLATKI)
The breaking and sharing of the ceremonial bread, Oplatki, is a ritual common to many religious rites. The word, oplatki, is derived from the Latin word, oblatum, which means “sacred bread.” It symbolizes the strengthening of bonds between all people — the individual family members, between families, and between towns and cities throughout the world. Each person turns to the others—takes a small piece of the oplatki from the other and eats it. Then greetings and best wishes for health and happiness in the coming year are exchanged. If something needs to be forgiven, it is; the past is reconciled and the present is celebrated. These Christmas Wafers are available on the table in the Narthex. We ask for a donation of $2.00 per package.
ALL ARE INVITED TO
THE PRESENTATION
ON
CYBER TARGETING
December 4, 2018

You Are a Cyber Target:
Learn How to Build a Defense

We all are in a growing cyber battle, with criminals who seek our hard-earned money. FBI Deputy Special Agent in Charge Todd Carroll, from the FBI Chicago office, will provide valuable and much-needed tips on how you can protect yourself and your family during the Christmas season and beyond. He will discuss the current status of the internet and conduct an honest and open discussion of current threats and dangers, including identifying fraudulent emails that want to separate you from your money. Other topics include debit cards vs. credit cards, what’s on the dark web, file sharing, social media and social engineering attacks.

- Tuesday, December 4, 2018
- 7:00 pm
- Oak St. Church—Community Center

THANK YOU

The 28th annual Community Harvest Food and Fund Drive for the Crystal Lake Food Pantry was a huge success. Thank you to all our St. Thomas parishioners and volunteers — you donated over 9,000 pounds of food to this Thanksgiving Drive. That is a huge gift. Donations exceeded last year’s Community Harvest by over 20%. Thank you also for your continued support to the Crystal Lake Food Pantry on the first Sunday of every month. If you wish to volunteer and/or make a monetary donation, please see the web page at clfoodpantry.org. Thank you for your continued support and prayers. May God bless you for your generosity.

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH MUSIC

Please join us as we celebrate our faith through song at our two Music Ministry Concerts at the Oak St. Church. Both Concerts will provide a variety of Advent and Christmas selections and sing-a-longs!

**Friday, December 14, 2018—7:00 pm**
WAY Concert
(Music provided by the 5:30 pm Contemporary Group)

**Friday, December 21, 2018—7:00 pm**
Traditional Concert
(Cookie reception following in the Community Room)
(Music provided by the 9:00 am Choir, Handbells, Children’s Choir and Contemporary Ensemble)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8
HOLY DAY
OF OBLIGATION
FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED
VIRGIN MARY

Saturday, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Patronal Feastday of the United States of America. This is a Holy Day of Obligation for all Catholics. Schedule of Masses at the Oak Street Church are as follows:

- **Friday, December 7:**
  - 5:30 pm and 7:00 pm (Oak)
- **Saturday, December 8:**
  - 9:00 am (Oak)
  - 10:30 am (Oak)

Note: There will be no 7:30 am morning Mass and morning Confessions on December 8.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU
Adoration Chapel

Saturday, December 8, 2018 marks the 5th anniversary of the opening of our Parish Perpetual Adoration Chapel. Thank you to all our adorers. God bless you for all your prayers, time, efforts and goodness. Praise Jesus in the Eucharist!

RITE OF WELCOMING
R.C.I.A. CANDIDATES

Today, Sunday, December 2, at the 9:00 am Mass, we celebrate the Rite of Welcoming with the Candidates in our R.C.I.A. Program. This Rite will be an opportunity for the Candidates to publicly declare for the first time their intention to continue their journey toward full initiation into the Catholic Church at Easter. Please join St. Thomas the Apostle Community in welcoming and congratulating them. The Candidates and their Sponsors will be attending the 9:00 am Mass each week.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
TEACHERS NEEDED

The Religious Education Department has a need for two additional classroom teachers. **Tuesday afternoon we need a Grade 2 teacher/aide.** Wednesday afternoons we are in need of a Grade 1 aide. Classes start at 4:30pm and conclude at 5:45pm. Please consider helping to pass on the faith to our little ones. Contact the RE office at 815.455.9787. Thank you!
2 de diciembre de 2018
Primer Domingo de Adviento

LA PROMESA DE JUSTICIA

Estamos en buena compañía cuando clamamos a Dios por justicia. Con frecuencia escuchamos y estamos de acuerdo con el pueblo de Israel que pregunta a Dios por qué el malo prospera. Sin embargo, cuando clamamos por justicia usualmente queremos que alguien reciba el castigo que se merece. Obviamente la justicia de Dios es más que eso. La justicia de Dios abarca una maravillosa rectitud entre Dios y la humanidad.

En la lectura de hoy Jeremías avizora un tiempo en el que un justo brotará del tronco de Jesé, de la casa y la familia de David. La vida no era justa en el tiempo de Jeremías. Los reyes de Israel mantenían viva la promesa de la fidelidad de Dios, pero era difícil ver cómo la promesa de Dios se podía cumplir por medio de ellos.

No obstante, Jeremías levanta la voz y anuncia que ya viene el Salvador prometido. El Evangelio de Lucas hace eco de ese anuncio, y Pablo se llena de un gran ánimo. De esta manera el Adviento comienza con una promesa.

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LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: Is 2:1-5; Sal 122 (121): 1-9; Mt 8:5-11
Martes: Is 11:1-10; Sal 72(71): 1-2,7-8, 12-13, 17; Lc 10:21-24
Miércoles: Is 25:6-10a; Sal 23(22):1- 6; Mt 15:29-37
Jueves: Is 26:1-6; Sal 118(117):1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27
Viernes: Is 29:17-24; Sal 27 (26): 1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31
Sábado: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Sal 98(97); 1-4; Ef 1:3-6, 11-12; Lc 1:26-38
Domingo: Bar 5:1-9; Sal 126 (125):1-6; Fil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lc 3:1-6

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NOVENA A NUESTRA SEÑORA DE GUADALUPE DICIEMBRE-2018

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fecha</th>
<th>Horario y Lugar</th>
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<tr>
<td>Viernes 30 de Noviembre</td>
<td>6:00pm St. Tomás Pierson St.</td>
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<td>Sábado 1 de Diciembre</td>
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<td>6:00 pm St. Tomás Pierson St.</td>
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<td>3:00 am St. Tomás Oak St.</td>
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DONACIONES CONVIVIO GUADALUPANO

Si te anotaste para traer algo de comer para el convivio Guadalupano, por favor, no olvides llevarlo al Community Room de la Parroquia Oak St. El sábado 8 de diciembre antes de las 5:00 am. Gracias por compartir con nuestros hermanos.

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LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

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Mañanaitas Guadalupanas

Sábado 8 de diciembre de 2018
Parroquia St. Tomás Oak St.

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<tr>
<th>Evento</th>
<th>Horario</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rezo del Santo Rosario</td>
<td>3:00 am - 3:45 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cantos</td>
<td>3:50 am - 4:05 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danza Jóvenes</td>
<td>4:10 am - 4:35 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representación Apariciones</td>
<td>4:40 am - 4:55 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Procesión a la Iglesia</td>
<td>4:55 am - 5:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Misa</td>
<td>5:00 am - 6:00 am</td>
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Acaso no estoy ya aquí que soy tu Madre

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ADVENT GIVING TREE
As we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, we reach out to those in need with the St. Thomas Parish tradition of the Advent Giving Tree. This year we will be providing gifts for 20 different local agencies and numerous families. You may stop by our tree (located at Oak St. Church — entrance nearest the restrooms) and choose an ornament. Each ornament is color coded and labeled with a gift item. Posters matching the colors of the different ornaments are located nearby and provide information about the organization you are helping and tell you whether or not to wrap your gift. Gift Cards can be dropped in the mail slot in the door of the Oak St. Church Library/Office.

Purchase your gift and attach the ornament. When you drop off your gift, please place it on the table coded with the same color as your ornament. Most of the tables are located in the Community Room and a few tables are set up near the tree. Please return your gifts no later than NOON ON SUNDAY, December 9th to insure delivery by our volunteers. If you have questions or would like to volunteer to sort and deliver gifts on December 9th, please contact Jean Bianchi @815-459-6954.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY
Begins Monday, January 14, 2019
For 9 weeks
If you want to reduce stress, strengthen your marriage and get the financial traction that can give you opportunities to pay your bills with confidence, save for your future, and give like no one else, please consider joining our next Financial Peace University (FPU) class. FPU is a 9 week course that walks you through many aspects of financial prudence, including budgeting, saving, paying down debt, insurance, and more. The St. Thomas class starts on Monday January 14th, 2019.

Hope to see you there! For more details please call, text, or email Mark Hryniewicz at 815-355-2774 (mark.hryniewicz@bairdwarner.com) or go right to the website and register (daveramsey.com). It is best to contact me directly and I can send you a link for the class and you will receive a discount on the materials.
Our Parish Income (Oak St. Church) for Sunday, November 18, 2018 was $35,385.32

Our Parish Income (Pierson St. Church) for Sunday, November 18, 2018 was $3,072.25

Our Parish Income (Oak St. Church) for Sunday, November 25, 2018 was $46,343.25

Our Parish Income (Pierson St. Church) for Sunday, November 25, 2018 was $3,297.01

Our Parish Tithe this week will go to St. Patrick Church in Rockford, IL, to minister to the people in need in their area of Rockford.

TIME IS GIVEN TO US: With God, there is no time — God is eternal, without beginning and without ending. A thousand years in God’s sight is but a moment past. We, however, live in time, the time given to us by God, the Creator of time. Time is given to us to live in, for and through God. Time is made holy (or unholy) by how we use it, either to the glory of God, or the glory of ourselves, as we are known to God.
Parish Calendar

First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018
Coffee and Donuts
9:00 AM R.C.I.A. (Oak St Church)
10:00 AM R.C.I.A. Class (Lower Level-Oak St. Church)
1:00 PM R.E. Home Study (Community Center)
1:00 PM J.H. R.E. Session (Lower Level-Oak St. Church)

Monday, December 3, 2018
St. Francis Xavier
10:00 AM Monday Bible Study (Lower Level-Oak Church)
10:30 AM MMP Rosary Group (Pierson St. Church)
5:00 PM St. Catherine of Siena Guild (Parish Center)
6:30 PM SPRED Prep Session (Parish Center)
7:00 PM LOTW Growing in Christ (Lower Level-Oak Church)

Tuesday, December 4, 2018
St. John Damascene
9:30 AM Moms Bible Study (Community Center)
12:30 PM Women’s Club Board Meeting (Parish Center)
4:30 PM R.E. Grade Classes (Pierson St. Church)
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus (Lower Level-Oak Church)

Wednesday, December 5, 2018
4:30 PM R.E. Grade Classes (Pierson St. Church)
7:00 PM Reason to Believe (Parish Library)

Thursday, December 6, 2018
St. Nicholas
First Friday, December 7, 2018
St. Ambrose
5:30 PM Holy Day Vigil Mass (Oak St. Church)
7:00 PM Holy Day Vigil Mass (Oak St. Church)

Saturday, December 8, 2018
Holy Day of Obligation
Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM
Masses at Oak St. Church: 9:00 am and 10:30 am
(no 7:30 am Mass) - NO TMIY
5:00 AM Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass (Oak St. Church)
8:00 AM Women’s Endow Group (Parish Library)
8:15 AM Men’s Saturday Group (Lower Level-Oak Church)

Second Sunday of Advent, December 9, 2018
Coffee and Donuts
Giving Tree Donations due at 12:00 noon
9:00 AM Deaf Mass (Parish Center)
9:00 AM R.C.I.A. (Oak St Church)
10:00 AM R.C.I.A. Class (Lower Level-Oak St. Church)
Saint Thomas the Apostle Church
451 W. Terra Cotta Avenue (Route 176 & Oak St.)
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014

St. Thomas Pierson St. Church:
453 Pierson Street, Crystal Lake, IL

Saint Thomas the Apostle Pastoral Office:
272 King Street
Crystal Lake, Illinois 60014
Office Telephone: 815-455-5400
Fax — 815-455-2733

Web-Site
www.saintthomascatholicchurch.org

St. Thomas School—815-459-0496
School Office hours: 7:30 am to 3:00 pm
Pastoral Center (272 King St.):
Monday - Thursday: 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM
Friday - 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Saturday: 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Oak St. Church Office (in Parish Library) Hours:
Sunday 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM
Office Telephone: 815-455-5400

Mass Schedule:
Daily Mass: 6:30 AM (Oak Street)
8:30 AM (Oak Street—Mon/Tues/Thurs/ Fri)
7:50 AM (Pierson St.— Wednesday)
Saturday: 7:30 AM (Oak Street)
4:30 PM (Oak Street)
Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM,
12:00 PM, 5:30 PM (Oak Street)

Spanish Mass (Pierson St. Church):
Thursday — 7:15 pm Saturday — 7:00 pm
Sunday — 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Reconciliation:
Every Saturday (Oak St. Church):
8:00 AM—8:45 AM and 3:30 PM – 4:15 PM
Every Monday: 5:30 pm –6:30 pm (Oak St. Church)
or anytime by appointment

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING COUPLE:
ALFONSO (815-236-7905) and MARGARITA (815-245-5427) MARTINEZ (nfp.foxvalley@gmail.com)

LITTLE CHRISTOPHER RESALE SHOPPE:
469 LAKE STREET, CRYSTAL LAKE, IL
(815) 459-9442

ST. THOMAS OUTREACH:
469 LAKE STREET, CRYSTAL LAKE, IL
(815) 455-1249

PASTORAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

PRIESTS 815.455.5400
FATHER JOHN R. EVANS, PASTOR
FATHER JEROME P. KOUTNIK, PAROCHIAL VICAR
FATHER AKAN S. SIMON, PAROCHIAL VICAR
HISPANIC MINISTRY:
FATHER WILLIAM TUNAROSA
PAROCHIAL VICAR 815.356.0860

PERMANENT DEACONS
ALLEN BONDI
DAVID DEITZ
EDWARD MORRISON

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES 815.455.5400
DONNA KOTHERA, PARISH SECRETARY
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