MISSION STATEMENT

WE ARE A CATHOLIC FAMILY, LIVING OUR AWARENESS OF CHRIST’S PRESENCE THROUGH WORSHIP, SERVICE, EVANGELIZATION & COMMUNITY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL.

JULY 26, 2020 | 17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

PASTOR
REVEREND JOHN R. EVANS

PAROCHIAL VICARS
REVEREND CHARLES FITZPATRICK
REVEREND AKAN SIMON
REVEREND WILLIAM TUNAROSA

PERMANENT DEACONS
MR. ALLEN BONDI
MR. DAVID DEITZ

MAIN CHURCH (OAK)
451 W. TERRA COTTA AVE.

PARISH CENTER
272 KING ST.

HISPANIC CHURCH
453 PIERSON ST.

CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014
815-455-5400
WWW.STTHOMASCL.CHURCH
Masses are by registration only.
Click [HERE](#) to select Masses.

**CONFESSION AT OAK ST. CHURCH:**
- **Monday** – 5:00 – 6:00 PM
- **Saturday** – 8:00 – 9:00 AM & 3:00 – 4:00 PM

*No Confessions July 20 & 27 due to high school confirmation ceremonies.*

**PARISH LOCATIONS**

**PARISH OFFICE:**
272 King St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-455-5400

**SCHOOL:**
265 King St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014
815-459-0496

**OAK ST. CHURCH:**
451 W. Terra Cotta Ave.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

**PIERSON ST. CHURCH:**
453 Pierson St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

**PARISH CENTER HOURS**
- **Monday – Thursday** – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- **Friday** – 9:00 AM – Noon

**PARISH RESOURCES**

**LITTLE CHRISTOPHER RESALE SHOPPE:**
469 Lake St., Crystal Lake, IL
815-459-9442
- **Th. & Sat.** – 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- **Donations Accepted Mondays** 9:00 – 11:00 AM

**ST. THOMAS OUTREACH:**
469 Lake St., Crystal Lake, IL
815-455-1249
- **W, Sat.** – 9:00 – 11:00 AM

**CRYSTAL LAKE FOOD PANTRY:**
42 East St., Crystal Lake, IL
815-455-0961
- **M, W, F** – 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Th** – 5:00 – 7:00 PM
- **Sat.** – 9:00 AM – Noon

**CONNECT WITH US!**

- [www.facebook.com/saintthomascl](http://www.facebook.com/saintthomascl)
- [www.instagram.com/stthomascl](http://www.instagram.com/stthomascl)
- [www.stthomascl.church](http://www.stthomascl.church)
- [www.stthomascl.flocknote.com](http://www.stthomascl.flocknote.com)

Cover photo provided by PR & Promotions Dept.
My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you this week!

“Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:14-17). Do not let anyone tell you that the sacrament of confirmation is unbiblical.

As I write, I am between two sets of socially-distanced confirmations. Usually, I present the class to the Bishop, who does the confirming. This year, due to COVID, I get to confirm them myself, on the Bishop’s behalf.

Remember, just like Holy Communion can be administered by an ordinary minister (priest or deacon), or by an extraordinary minister (a layperson appointed for this purpose), so the sacrament of confirmation has both an ordinary minister (the Bishop) and an extraordinary minister (a priest). The Holy Spirit, Who burst in on the Apostles at Pentecost, has been passed on from person to person, all the way up to our present day.

The matter (thing or action) of confirmation is the anointing with sacred chrism, a sweet-smelling mixture of oil and spices. Pope St. Fabian, who knew people who knew the apostles, attests that our Lord Himself taught the Apostles how to make chrism on the night of the Last Supper.

In the days of our Lord, oil was considered strengthening. It also seeps into the pores, so it goes deep. So, confirmation strengthens us but deeply and inwardly.

Likewise, the scent of the oil reminds us of what St. Justin said was the difference between a Christian and a non-Christian, “just the right amount of perfume.” Our non-Catholic, non-Christian friends should see just a slight difference between them and us, for the better. The smell of chrism is gentle, but certainly present. I can smell it on my thumb for a day or two after I confirm people, and that’s even AFTER having washed…

Please consider renewing your own confirmation using the prayer below. Until next week, know that I remain

Yours in the Heart of Christ,
Fr. Evans

**Renewal of Confirmation Graces:** My God, I thank You for all Your infinite Goodness in sending down upon my soul Your Holy Spirit with all His Gifts and graces. O, may He take full possession of me forever! May His heavenly Wisdom reign in my heart. His Understanding enlighten my darkness; His Counsel guide me; His Fortitude strengthen me; His Knowledge instruct me; His Piety make me fervent; His Divine Fear keep me from all evil. Give me grace to be Your faithful soldier, so that by fighting the good fight of faith, I may be brought to the crown of eternal life by the merits of Your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO OUR LORD AND TO OUR PARISH, BOTH MONETARILY AND PRAYERFULLY.

WEEKLY DONATIONS CAN BE MAILED OR DROPPED OFF AT THE PARISH CENTER:
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH
ATTN. BUSINESS OFFICE
272 KING ST.
CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014

WANT TO AVOID THE COST OF CHECKS & STAMPS AND MAKE BUDGETING EASIER? CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE EFT FORM FOR AUTOMATIC DEDUCTION!
Parish Events

All volunteers needed! The Crystal Lake Food Pantry has experienced an increase in need due to the Covid-19 virus shutdowns ravaging the economy. They are busier than ever and they need your help! The Food Pantry is a very safe environment, with lots of Covid-19 safeguards in place. Call your neighbors, college and high school age kids, anyone that is not afraid to come into a very safe, clean, sanitized area to help those in need. Can’t help? Cash donations are needed! Click the link to donate: https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/1398971

ALL CRYSTAL LAKE RESIDENTS ARE WELCOME TO USE THE FOOD PANTRY!!!

St. Thomas the Apostle Sponsored Days:
The dates that we need help (8:30 am - 2:30 pm) for the next few months, are:

Wednesday August 5th
Monday August 31
Wednesday September 23
Wednesday October 21
Monday November 16
Wednesday December 16

Please visit our website www.clfoodpantry.org for information or use the “SignUp” link to help or call Marilyn, 815-459-3579

The Knights of Columbus also can use help on Saturdays (8:30 am - 12:00 pm) and Thursday evenings (4:30 pm - 7:00 pm):

Saturday August 1
Thursday August 20
Saturday September 5
Thursday September 17
Saturday October 3
Thursday October 15
Saturday November 7
Thursday November 19
Saturday December 5
Thursday December 17
The Little Christopher Resale Shoppe reopened last week!

- Open for shopping on Thursday & Saturday from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Open for donations on Mondays from 10:00 am - 11:00 am
- Masks are required to shop

Matthew 13:44-46
Be a Beacon of Hope

Community Blood Drive Hosted at St. Thomas Church

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Drive will be held on the MOBILE COACH at the St. Thomas Church held in main parking lot 451 W. Terra Cotta in Crystal Lake

To schedule your appointment, contact John at 815-236-2193, or Annette at 815-356-1413

Appointments are Encouraged which will allow for social distancing - Check in prior to donating

Your blood donation will help to restore the Urgent Need shortage to our local blood supply

Questions?
Call Carrie (815) 271-2910
Online registration for the 2020-21 Religious Education School Year will open August 1.

I am struck by the irony that while this year should be the year of seeing clearly, 2020 keeps proving clear vision is in short supply like toilet paper and sanitizing wipes. What would we give to know the plans that God has instore for us for the remainder of 2020? There is a sense of obfuscation…a darkness that permeates all the familiar paths of life. Things that we previously did routinely with little or no thought, now require immense amounts of thought… sending our children to school, eating outside our homes, shopping for food, gathering with family and friends, attending Mass, etc… Everyone wants to get it right. People are longing for certainty…but it is also a rare commodity. I have loads of questions…but no answers. The truth is…that only God knows the future. So what’s a soul to do?

Let’s take to our knees, bow our heads and humbly ask the Lord’s guidance. How shall I pray, Lord? Honestly, I often am at a loss as to what to specifically ask of God. Perhaps a prudent prayer would be to simply ask the Lord to guide me to my next best step. Lord, help me find sure footing on the path forward so I don’t stumble. Maybe, the Lord wants to increase our awareness that we are totally dependent on Him to help us find our way through 2020. Lord, help me to do your will. Lord, help me to see with your eyes. Lord, I need you.

Maybe, we don’t need the answers…maybe, we just need faith and a whole lot of prayer. I have faith that God hears our pleas. God loves us and only wants good things for us, even when we can’t or won’t see it. Instead of lamenting about things beyond our control, what if we became beacons of hope, lighthouses on the rocky shoreline? What if…

Instead of criticizing leadership in our communities, we pray for wisdom for our civic and church leaders. Instead of demanding to have things “our” way, we pray to be united in the Holy Spirit. Instead of grumbling and posting what is wrong with everything and anything, we listen with ears of compassion and understanding to the plight of others. Instead of worrying we will never have enough or be enough, let’s share the Good News of the Gospel that… Jesus provides in abundance, He is enough. Instead of dividing...let’s multiply...our efforts toward peace. Instead of fear and negativity...let’s show the world kindness, love and hope. Instead of cursing the darkness, let’s be the light!

Grab your Bible, open it to Psalm 119:105 or Romans 8:28 and sit with these verses a while. Bathe in His love and light. Be confident that God has a plan, that He loves you, and then take the next step out of the darkness and down the path toward the light.

Char Kolodzik, Director of Religious Education

Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path. Psalm 119:105
Little Saints Preschool

Are you looking for a wonderfully nurturing, faith-filled, Catholic preschool for your little one? St. Thomas the Apostle Little Saints Preschool has openings for the 2020-2021 school year. We would love to schedule your family for a tour of our beautiful, state of the art building and show you all we have to offer. Check us out on Facebook to see examples of programs and curriculum choices. For more information, please visit the preschool registration section on the main page of the school website [www.stthomascl.org](http://www.stthomascl.org) or contact Preschool Director Jennifer Gallien: [jgallien@stthomascl.org](mailto:jgallien@stthomascl.org)
**Virtual Junior High Hangout**

We are continuing JH youth ministry VIRTUALLY! All junior high students are invited to join us for our JH hangouts, Thursday afternoons via Skype! A link to join the Skype call is sent out 5-10 minutes before each call. If you’d like to join and don’t receive an email aroche@stthomascl.church for the link.

**Virtual High School Hangout**

We are continuing HS Hangout VIRTUALLY! All high schoolers are invited to join us for our high school hangouts, Tuesday afternoons via Skype! A link to join the Skype call is sent out 5-10 minutes before each call. If you’d like to join and don’t receive an email aroche@stthomascl.church for the link.

**Gospel Reflection**

Twice a week we get together on Skype to pray with and reflect on the gospel of the day. This is an opportunity to add some structured prayer time in this season of confusion and chaos, as well as keeping a sense of community in the midst of social distancing. I send out a link for the video chat just minutes before the call, if you don’t receive an email please email aroche@stthomascl.church and I’ll email you the link to join!

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**ST. THOMAS SCHOOL CORNER**

St. Thomas is now accepting registrations for the 2020-2021 school year. Class sizes are small, and teachers give personal attention to each individual child’s proficiencies. Every Wednesday begins with the entire school attending Mass. Teachers at St. Thomas are highly qualified and caring.

Kindergarten at St. Thomas not only teaches social, emotional and fine and gross motor skills but includes a full range of academics as included in our entire elementary program: math, language arts, science, social studies, music, art, physical education and technology.

St. Thomas provides an extracurricular athletic program beginning at grade 5 for both boys and girls. Other after school activities include science clubs, photography club, and choir.

Tuition is customizable through our FairAbility Program. For more information please call 815-459-0496
El Evangelio nos sigue narrando parábolas sobre el Reino de Dios y de cómo actuar en él. El domingo pasado era sobre el trigo y la cizaña. Hoy la Liturgia nos presenta, el tesoro, la perla y la red. Encontrar el tesoro de la verdad y la justicia en nuestro tiempo es un trabajo de proceso que requiere un compromiso con Dios, la familia, la comunidad y con la persona misma. Las parábolas son una catequesis que indican la forma para salir y encontrar lo que se busca. “El Reino de los Cielos es como un tesoro escondido en un campo. El hombre que lo descubre, lo vuelve a esconder: su alegría es tal, que va, vende todo lo que tiene y compra ese campo”. Y el Señor continúa narrando. “Un comerciante que busca perlas finas. Si llega a sus manos una perla de gran valor, se va, vende cuanto tiene y la compra”. Y ahora, la de los peces. “Una red que se ha echado al mar y que recoge peces de todas clases. Cuando está llena, los pescadores la sacan a la orilla, se sientan, escogen los peces buenos, los echan en canastos y tiran los que no sirven”. (Mateo 13:44-48) Pidamos al Señor, en esta Eucaristía que nos dé la sabiduría de Salomón para encontrar los tesoros que nos lleven a vivir como hermanos y hermanas en estos tiempos de crisis que se están viviendo en diferentes lugares del mundo. Recordemos, que, el mejor tesoro es la amistad con Dios y quien la tiene, lo tiene todo. Salomón y San Pablo en las lecturas de hoy lo confirman.

Cuando encontramos la perla de gran valor, tenemos que ofrecer por ella todo lo que poseemos (Mateo 13:44-52 [44-46])

Nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones para todos los jóvenes que hicieron su Confirmación el 17 y el 24 de Julio 2020.

Que Jesus nuestro Dios los proteja y bendiga siempre!

IMPORTANTE:
Hermanos, su parroquia los necesita, si desean contribuir a la colecta dominical lo pueden hacer en línea, a través del sitio web de nuestra parroquia:
www.saintthomascatholicchurch.org

Así como también pueden utilizar el buzón de correo localizado a la entrada de la oficina parroquial, dejando su contribución en un sobre cerrado con su nombre escrito; de igual manera pueden enviar su contribución por correo a la oficina parroquial con dirección: 272 King St. Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Gracias.
Santo Tomás Apóstol
Ministerio Hispano.
PARISH STAFF

PARISH CENTER – 272 King St., Crystal Lake, IL
(815) 455-5400  FAX (815) 455-2733  www.stthomascl.church

Reverend John Evans, Pastor
Reverend Charles Fitzpatrick, Parochial Vicar
Reverend Akan Simon, Parochial Vicar
Permanent Deacons:
Allen Bondi, David Deitz

Hispanic Ministry:
Reverend William Tunarosa, Parochial Vicar
Marissa Lopez, Hispanic Ministry Secretary
Jose Guimaray

Administrative Services:
Donna Kothera, Parish Secretary
Patricia Roatch, Financial Secretary
Melinda Popp, Financial Assistant

Evangelization:
Allyson Svigelj, Director

Music & Liturgy:
Meg Struttman, Administrative Assistant

Religious Education:
Charlotte Kolodzik, Director
Christina Benkert, Secretary
Nancy Miller, Coordinator
Renee Lyons, Coordinator

Young Adult & Youth Ministry:
Anna Roche, High School Youth Minister
Maureen Sullivan, Secretary

Receptionists:
Val DeLance, Renee Lyons,
Kris Noonan, Nancy Leibforth

Oak Street Church (Main Church)
451 W. Terra Cotta Ave (Rte. 176)
Crystal Lake, IL  60014

Pierson Street Church (Hispanic)
453 Pierson St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

St. Thomas the Apostle School:
Gina Houston, Principal
Gina Ruffolo, Assistant Principal
Michelle Boppart, Director of Development
(815) 459-0496
265 King St.
Crystal Lake, IL  60014
www.stthomascl.org

Little Saints Preschool:
Jennifer Gallien, Director
(815) 459-0496, ext. 239
454 Lake St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Marian Central Catholic High School
(815) 338-4220
Woodstock, IL
www.marian.com