



ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH
5150 N. Valley View Road, Tucson, AZ 85718
(520) 577-8780 www.statucson.org



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE & BECOME INVOLVED

The parish was founded on July 3, 1984 (the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle) by Msgr. Todd O'Leary. Mass and parish activities were conducted at Sunrise Drive Elementary School until June 22, 1985, when we moved into a modular building on the parish grounds. Construction thereafter included:

- ◆ *Phase I (Church and Parish Office complex)-completed 1987, with the first Mass celebrated on Easter Sunday, April 19, 1987.*
- ◆ *Phase II (Parish Hall and classrooms)-completed May 1990.*
- ◆ *Phase III (Religious Education offices and classrooms)-completed July 1993.*
- ◆ *Phase IV (Blessed Sacrament Chapel and Preschool)-completed April 1998.*
- ◆ *Phase V (O'Leary Hall, Rectory & Parish Hall kitchen expansion)-completed May 2012.*

 **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT—** Adoration is observed in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel every Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., from September through May. For information, contact Maria Sarnoff (577-8298).

 **ALTAR GUILD—**The duties of the Altar Guild involve the care and maintenance of *EVERYTHING* pertaining to the celebration of Mass and the Sacraments. This includes taking care of the vessels, votive and sanctuary candles, holy water fonts, missals, altar linens, altar server cassocks and surplices, the priests' albs and to care for live flowers used on special occasions. Some tasks are done weekly or monthly, some on a rotation basis so that a person only has to perform the task two to four times a year. For information, contact Pat Meurant (297-5457).

 **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS—**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist in the distribution of the Body of Christ during Mass. Special Ministers of Holy Communion also bring Communion, and minister in other forms, to the homebound. Please contact Fr. Jay Jensen (577-8782, ext. 128) for information.

 **LECTORS—**Individuals with an openness to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, a desire to study and discern the meaning of the Holy Scriptures and who possess vocal agility to bring alive the power and beauty of God's word are encouraged to respond to this calling. Please contact Fr. Jay Jensen (577-8782, ext. 128) for information.

 **FUNERAL MINISTRY—** Serves families of deceased parishioners by assisting with receptions in the Parish Hall following a funeral. Volunteers are needed in a variety of roles. For info, contact Pat Meurant (297-5457).

 **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CONFERENCE—**The St. Vincent de Paul Conference is devoted to meeting the immediate needs of those who need rescue from economic hardship. Every day, our team members retrieve phone messages from those in need, return their calls, and make arrangements for the visit. We usually help with rent, utility bills, food and gas, but occasionally a much more complex need arises. Also, twice yearly the SVDP truck is in the parking lot to accept your donations. For more information, call 577-8780, ext. 171 or contact Dane Armijo (299-2423).

 **LUNCH BUNCH (Lunches for the Hungry)—** Everyone is welcome to help make 1000+ sandwiches and fill the lunch bags with fruit, hard boiled eggs and cookies for Casa Maria Soup Kitchen.

HOW YOU CAN HELP ON A MONTHLY BASIS:
 Thursday afternoon...pick up 60 eggs, hard boil at home and then return to the Parish Hall on Friday morning by 8:00 a.m.; and/or
 Friday morning...come at 7:00 a.m. and set up (preparing bologna & cheese, peanut butter & jelly, and filling 500 bags with an orange, cookie and hard-boiled egg); and/or
 Friday morning...come at 8:30 a.m. to prepare 1000+ sandwiches in less than 30 minutes!

DONATIONS of towels, toiletries, lip balm, hats/caps, sunscreen, socks, sunglasses, clothing & bottled water are also gladly accepted! Contact Laurie Stone (577-9691) for additional information.

 **FOOD BANK SUNDAY—**On the second Sunday of each month (except November), we collect nonperishable food and/or monetary donations to benefit the Tucson Community Food Bank. Watch the bulletin for monthly reminders.



CONFIRMATION (TEEN)—The Life Teen Confirmation Experience begins each Fall. In addition, please sign up for Life Night every Sunday following the 5:00 p.m. Life Teen Mass.



LIFE TEEN—Our Sunday 5:00 p.m. youth-focused Mass followed by youth night is one of the primary parish commitments for teens to live their faith in an interactive way. Parents and family members are encouraged to celebrate the Life Teen Mass with their teens.



EDGE (GRADES 6, 7 & 8)—Edge, Catholic Middle School Youth Ministry, helps young people with life's most challenging years. Edge supports and provides a monthly experience that relates to the weekly lectionary-based catechesis.



ANNUAL DINNER & AUCTION—This event is held yearly in the Spring, and all proceeds benefit the Life Teen Program.

For info on all these activities, please contact Deacon Ed (edwardsheffer1@gmail.com 577-8780, ext. 111).



MARIAN CLUB—We are a group of women, ages 18 and above, which meets the FIRST WEDNESDAY of the month, September—May, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall and are united in our Christian faith to promote spirituality, friendship, social opportunities and growth. Each month we invite alternating spiritual and social speakers. Outside spiritual, social and entertainment enrichment programs are also scheduled. Our evening starts with social time, followed by our guest speaker and concludes with a brief business meeting. We invite ALL women of St. Thomas to join us. For additional information, please contact Louann Costa (299-9832).



RETREAT—This retreat is held on a Saturday morning in the Spring during Lent. It is open to all women of the Parish. Watch the bulletin for more information.



ANNUAL FASHION SHOW FUNDRAISER—The Luncheon is held yearly in the Spring at Skyline Country Club. All proceeds from this event are donated to charity.



The **Boy Scouts** of America provide a program for young people that builds character, trains them in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and develops personal fitness. The Boy Scouts of America believes — and, through over a century of experience, knows — that helping youth is a key to building a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society. Likewise the **Girl Scout** mission is building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. The Girl Scouts are the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. St. Thomas is fortunate to have a very active scout's presence. The scouts meet on Mondays from 6:00 p.m. Contact Laurene Huelsman (299-6630) for information.



ALTAR SERVERS—To be an altar server is a special honor and a great privilege in the Catholic Church. If you are a 4th grader and above and have a desire to become an Altar Server, please contact Dcn. Phil Garcia (577-8780, ext. 125) for information.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY—The Children's Liturgy is held on the first Sunday of most months at the 9:00 a.m. Mass from September-May. Those students in Kindergarten-5th grade who would like to be a reader, usher or gift bearer are encouraged to sign up. The sign-up sheets will be available two weeks before the Liturgy. *Parent volunteers are needed to insure the success of the Children's Liturgy.* Contact Theresa Levy (270-7737) for information.



LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY—This program is offered throughout the year on Sundays at 6:15 p.m. All necessary materials are provided for a nominal fee. This is a great way to study the Bible and a wonderful way to magnify your Catholic faith by studying God's word. For information, contact Bob Shaff (577-0159).



ENDOW—Endow is a Catholic study program which provides a profound understanding of femininity. Those who are able to participate will be illuminated by the mystery of God's enduring love for women. This program is offered throughout the year on Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m. For info, contact Michele Grantham, michelegrantham@hotmail.com



SPANISH MINISTRY—This Ministry serves our Spanish-speaking parishioners and its focus is on the study of the Bible. We meet on Mondays at 11:30 a.m. currently in Room 6 starting Monday, September 12. In addition, the Ministry celebrates the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and conducts various other activities. For information, contact Deacon Phil (577-8782, ext. 125).



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION—We offer a variety of educational opportunities, including classes from Preschool through 8th grade, Order of Christian Initiation of Children (O.C.I.C.), Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) and Adult Confirmation. In addition, **we are in need of volunteer teachers and assistants.** Please contact Margaret Brokaw (577-8782, ext. 124).



SUMMER BIBLE CAMP—This half day, week-long program is for children ending Kindergarten through 5th grade. Each day the children will experience Bible stories, create service/craft projects, enjoy snacks, play great games, and through it all they will discover God's promise and His lifesaving love! Watch the bulletin for 2017 program details. For info, contact Margaret Brokaw (577-8782, ext. 124).



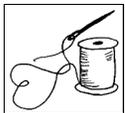
GET CARDED—If you play Bridge (male or female), you are most welcome to join our bridge group. Our sessions are held at 1:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in O'Leary Hall. You can play monthly or occasionally, as your schedule permits. We play 4 rounds of 5 hands and, at the end of each round, rotate. We play as individuals, not pairs, and prizes are awarded. It is necessary to sign up each time you wish to play in order to insure that all tables are filled; nominal monthly fee. For additional information, please contact Eileen Thompson (877-2550).



BRIDGE MARATHON—The Contract Bridge Marathon is celebrating its 31st year! Teams play once a month in their homes, or at St. Thomas on the third Thursday or the fourth Monday of each month., at their mutual convenience from October through April. An entry fee of \$30/person includes prizes and the May luncheon at Skyline Country Club. This is a great way to get to know your fellow parishioners, have loads of fun, and the perfect opportunity to brush-up on your bridge skills--old or new. To register or for further information, contact Rose Ewen: 749-9735



MAHJONG— Our Mahjong Group at St. Thomas is going strong and is gaining newcomers every week! They meet every Wednesday from 1:30-3:30 in O'Leary Hall. There is a one-time fee of \$1.00. For more information, please contact Cynthia Duran, sailaway79@comcast.net or 331-2322



QUILT & TOY MINISTRY—We welcome any parishioner (male or female) who would like to make crafts for social outreach. We need many hands to help with this very rewarding ministry. If you can sew, knit, cut material, iron or just stuff the toys, we'd love to have you join us. NO sewing skills required. Our projects include making lap quilts for the elderly shut-ins and toys for the children in hospitals or wherever we find a need. We usually meet on the second Thursday of every month (September-May) in O'Leary Hall. Please join us! For information, call Carol Habra (297-4068).



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—Make a difference and join the largest Catholic family fraternal service organization in the world! We are a social, fraternal organization dedicated to charitable work for our community. Our members are men of character and distinction who strive to act on behalf of their faith, as well as their conscience. To join the Knights, you must be a male 18 years of age or older and a practicing Catholic. Our five areas of service are *Faith, Family, Community, Fellowship and Youth*. For more information, contact Allan Reith, 444-5120



BLOOD DRIVES—In conjunction with the American Red Cross, St. Thomas organizes six Blood Drives throughout the year on Sunday mornings.



COFFEE AND DONUTS—Coffee and donuts are served in the Parish Hall after the 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses for a nominal fee. Hosted by the Knights of Columbus, Marian Club and the Scouting program. Watch the bulletin for details.



FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP—The Free Throw Championship is held every January for boys and girls, ages 10-14. Watch the bulletin for details.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST—This event is hosted by the Knights of Columbus on most first Sundays of each month (September—May) after the 7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses. Breakfast includes sausage, scrambled eggs, plain and/or blueberry pancakes, orange juice, coffee, and milk. Come and enjoy breakfast, and meet and greet our new parishioners who have joined our parish family.



SAVORY SOUP SUPPERS—Soup and bread served every Friday at 6:00 p.m. during Lent before the 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross.



DONATION OF AMERICAN FLAGS—All sizes accepted for donations to schools, hospitals, churches, etc. Flags may be left with the ushers or delivered to the Parish Office. *The Knights will also accept old, well-used, torn flags which will be disposed of in the proper manner.*



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PID) CAMPAIGN—The primary beneficiary of the "Tootsie Roll" campaign is the Special Olympics. Watch the bulletin in the Fall for all the details.

Thank You

Thank you for your involvement in and support of the activities and ministries of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish!



PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN—The Preschool & Kindergarten enrolls children from the age of 2 through Kindergarten. We are NAEYC-accredited and our curriculum is developmentally appropriate. Our main objective is to provide children with the experience of God's love through celebrations, prayers, bible stories, music and a sense of community. If you would like more information, contact Michelle Garmon (577-0503, ext. 120).

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE MUSIC MINISTRY

Five of the six Liturgies we offer each weekend are celebrated with Music. The Music Ministry would like to extend an invitation to the many beautiful voices we hear in the congregation to share their God-given gift with the people of St. Thomas and come join one of our choirs. **For more information, please contact the Parish Office (577-8780, ext. 110).**

ACCLAMATION CHOIR (9:00 a.m. Sunday)

Adult Choir

Rehearsal: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Director: Julie Huerstel

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (Grades 2 – 6)

(9:00 a.m. First Sunday of the Month

September through May)

Rehearsal: Thursday, 6:00 p.m.

Director: Lily Pape Stevens

LIFE TEEN CHOIR (5:00 p.m. Sunday Sept.-May)

If you are a teen and interested in participating please contact Ross Helland (ross.stthomas@gmail.com).

Rehearsal: Sunday, 3:30 p.m.

Director: Ross Helland

PARISH CHOIR (10:30 a.m. Sunday)

Being able to sight-read music and/or have previous choral experience is a plus.

Rehearsal: Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Director: Matthew Holter



MORE THAN WORDS—creates opportunities to understand and engage with social justice, by bringing awareness to the issues that impact our community. Come act on God's call to love through service. If you have a heart for service, come answer God's call this year with More Than Words. Martha Luebbering 591-3135



"MARCH FOR LIFE"—A St. Thomas contingency participate annually in the Tucson March for Life. This march memorializes the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. It is a prayerful testimony to the sanctity of human life.

Covenant OF LOVE



datenight

A monthly gathering for married couples to come together for fellowship and catechism. Date Night is for every married couple—no matter how many years married. Meets one Friday a month in O'Leary Hall at 7:00 p.m. Contact Bill and Terrie Ratliff for more information, 270-2464

Periodic or Seasonal Drives



THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE—St. Thomas provides approximately 150 families (over 700 people) from our "adopted" parishes with all the "fixings" to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner, including nonperishable items, fresh fruits/vegetables and a turkey. All additional food is donated to the pantries of those parishes, as well as Casa Maria and Community Food Bank. This drive every year gives the entire parish an opportunity to participate in a variety of roles to truly experience community building.

******Because of the construction, the drive will be replaced this year only by a special monetary collection ******



STUFF THE TRUCK FOR THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Your donations of clothing, household goods, etc. are necessary in order to help the poor & needy. The proceeds from items sold at the thrift stores are also used to support programs that assist with rent, utilities, food, etc. The Truck will be in the southeast corner of the parking lot the weekend of October 29-30. Watch the bulletin for all the details.



CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES—Christmas trees are placed in the narthex of the Church and Chapel during December decorated with ornaments indicating how you can help meet the particular needs of the person(s) you may wish to help from our "adopted" Tucson parishes.

We help six parishes have a much brighter Christmas. We can only do this with the generous help of our parish. You can participate by taking an ornament (s) and returning the wrapped present by the date listed on the ornament or by contributing by check to the parish marked "Christmas giving trees".



"CROSS OF LIFE" PROGRAM—St. Thomas has a long history of supporting Reachout Women's Center, a nonprofit pregnancy counseling center dedicated to helping pregnant women and new mothers in need. During Lent, the Life Teen Group will be placing the Cross of Life in the Church narthex for three weeks. Simply take a little cross suggesting items that are in constant need and return the item with the cross attached.