

St. Rita Catholic Church



6254 VALLEY KNOLL DRIVE • ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61109
815.398.0853 • www.stritarockford.org



3RD SUNDAY *in ordinary time*

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor." - Lk 4:18a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

January 22-23

**Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

**Fr. Brian Grady
Pastor**

**Fr. James C. Canova
Associate Pastor**

**Deacon Robert Collins
Deacon Kevin Hunter
Deacon John Huntley**

MASS TIMES

Weekdays

Monday – Saturday8:15am

Weekend

Saturday (Vigil)4:30 pm
Sunday ...8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Confessions

Tuesdays6 - 7 pm
Saturdays 8:45 - 9:30 am and
3:30 - 4:15 pm

Adoration

M - F 3 - 8 pm (Chapel)
Tuesday 6 - 7 pm (Church)

Holy Days: Mass schedule may vary.

Please check bulletin,
website or call the Church Office

Baptisms/Weddings

Please call the parish office to
arrange baptisms and weddings.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Friday 9 to 5 pm
CLOSED for lunch 12:30-1:30pm

Saint Thomas Aquinas' Story



By universal consent, Thomas Aquinas is the preeminent spokesman of the Catholic tradition of reason and of divine revelation. He is one of the great teachers of the medieval Catholic Church, honored with the titles Doctor of the Church and Angelic Doctor.

At five he was given to the Benedictine monastery at Monte Cassino in his parents' hopes that he would choose that way of life and eventually became abbot. In 1239, he was sent to Naples to complete his studies. It was here that he was first attracted to Aristotle's philosophy.

By 1243, Thomas abandoned his family's plans for him and joined the Dominicans, much to his mother's dismay. On her order, Thomas was captured by his brother and kept at home for over a year.

Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great. He held two professorships at Paris, lived at the court of Pope Urban IV, directed the Dominican schools at Rome and Viterbo, combated adversaries of the mendicants, as well as the Averroists, and argued with some Franciscans about Aristotelianism.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, pervades his writings. One might expect Thomas, as a man of the gospel, to be an ardent defender of revealed truth. But he was broad enough, deep enough, to see the whole natural order as coming from God the Creator, and to see reason as a divine gift to be highly cherished. Saint Thomas Aquinas believed that the existence of God could be proven in five ways, mainly by: 1) observing movement in the world as proof of God, the "Immovable Mover"; 2) observing cause and effect and identifying God as the cause of everything; 3) concluding that the impermanent nature of beings proves the existence of a necessary being, God, who originates only from within himself; 4) noticing varying levels of human perfection and determining that a supreme, perfect being must therefore exist; and 5) knowing that natural beings could not have intelligence without it being granted to them by God. Subsequent to defending people's ability to naturally perceive proof of God, Thomas also tackled the challenge of protecting God's image as an all-powerful being.

The *Summa Theologiae*, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology. He stopped work on it after celebrating Mass on December 6, 1273, during the Feast of Saint Nicolas. Saint Thomas Aquinas had a mystical vision that made writing seem unimportant to him. At mass, he reportedly heard a voice coming from a crucifix that said, "Thou hast written well of me, Thomas; what reward wilt thou have?" to which Saint Thomas Aquinas replied, "None other than thyself, Lord."

When Saint Thomas Aquinas's confessor, Father Reginald of Piperno, urged him to keep writing, he replied, "I can do no more. Such secrets have been revealed to me that all I have written now appears to be of little value." Saint Thomas Aquinas never wrote again. When asked why he stopped writing, he replied, "I cannot go on.... All that I have written seems to me like so much straw compared to what I have seen and what has been revealed to me." He died March 7, 1274.

Saint Thomas Aquinas is a Patron Saint of: Catholic Colleges and Universities, Educators/Teachers
Philosophers/Theologians

Reflection

We can look to Thomas Aquinas as a towering example of Catholicism in the sense of broadness, universality, and inclusiveness. We should be determined anew to exercise the divine gift of reason in us, our power to know, learn, and understand. At the same time we should thank God for the gift of his revelation, especially in Jesus Christ.

(information from: Franciscan media and biography/religious)

Mass Schedule and Intentions



TUESDAY ROSARY JANUARY The Holy Name of Jesus

This month we celebrate the Feast of Mary the Mother of God. Join us on Tuesday nights at 5:30 PM in the Church to pray the Angelus, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Let us also remember that in January we pray for all those affected by the passing of Roe

vs. Wade especially on Tuesday, January 18, four days before the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. We will pray for all infants who have lost their lives due to an abortion.

Pope Francis's intention for January is:

For true human fraternity: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

Consider staying after the Rosary to spend time of prayer in Adoration of Our Precious Lord.

PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK AND HOSPITALIZED

The current list of our sick and hospitalized are as follows:

Caleb Eckerstrom, Larry McConnell, Valerie Guyer, RoseMary Hillmer, Jerry Heiting

To add or remove the name of a sick person, please call the parish office at: **(815) 398-0853** or email: parishoffice@stritarockford.org. To protect everyone's privacy, only names emailed or called in by family members will be added. To keep our list more manageable and open to all, names submitted will remain on the list for one (1) month. If you would like an extra month, please call the parish office so that we may add it back on.

Monday, January 24• St. Francis de Sales

8:15am † Vincent Zumpano (Mech Family)

Tuesday, January 25• Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

8:15am † Anne Lindquist (Jerry & Bernadette Pennington)

Wednesday, January 26• Saints Timothy & Titus

8:15am † Margaret Muehlenkamp (Dorothy Cieskus)

Thursday, January 27• St. Angela Merici

8:15am † Marion Roghair (Honzel Family)

Friday, January 28• St. Thomas Aquinas

8:15am † Barbara Girardi (Betty Rutlin)

Saturday, January 29• Weekday

8:15am † Anthony Tarquini (Gloria Richardson)

Vigil for the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:30pm People of St. Rita

Sunday, January 30• 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am † Kaye Kwiecinski (Pat & Diane Clementz)

9:30am † Norbert Frank Eisenrich (Family)

11:00am † Jesus & † Florita Memorando (Janet Memorando)

SANCTUARY LAMP MEMORIALS

Memorial candles are located near the tabernacles and in front of the St. Rita icon. Consider offering a candle in memory of someone special or as a special intention. Candles for the week of **Jan. 23-29** are being offered for:



Chapel: Special Intention (Jean Peterson)

Church: † Jim Hilmer (James & Anna Drog)

St. Rita: Special Intention for St. Rita Students

Readings for the week of January 23, 2022

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/ Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117: 1bc, 2/ Mk 16:15-18

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/ 1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/ Lk 4:21-30

IN MEMORY OF
Myrtice Schultz
(mother of Anne Bukowski)

How can I repay the Lord for His goodness to me?

We are a Stewardship Parish

Contributions for January 15-16

Stewardship of Treasure (180).....	\$8,894.00
Loose Collection	\$566.00
Electronic Transfers (18)	\$775.00
Christmas (2)	\$200.00
Solemnity of Mary (2)	\$15.00
Flowers (1)	\$50.00
Immaculate Conception (2)	\$30.00
National Appeal (69)	\$5,515.00

2022 Calendar Raffle Tickets are now on sale!

Calendar Raffle tickets help support the St. Rita School and give back to the lucky winners too! Tickets are available all year, but this is your last chance to buy your raffle tickets before the first drawing. Completed ticket stubs and donations may be returned to the church office, placed in the weekly collection basket, or mailed to the church office. Please direct calendar raffle questions to: Nikki Collins (815)621-7808,



SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT
de PAUL

For help call 815-398-6060
svdp@stritarockford.org
All calls are confidential

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of scripture, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

Recently, we Vincentians were able to bring glad tidings to a couple of our friends in need. June, a working mother of two, needed help paying for car repairs. She got behind on bills when she had to take off work due to illness. She was trying her best to catch up, but in her words, she was "robbing" Peter to pay Paul. She was so thankful for the help we were able to provide so that she would have transportation to get to work each day. Then there is Jeannette. She was living on social security disability and was recuperating from a very serious car accident. She needed a warm coat and boots, and some help with gas so she could get to her doctor appointments. She expressed how blessed she felt and how her spirits were lifted just knowing that someone cares.

Because of your continued generosity we are able to share God's love to those in need. Thank you.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 27 at 6:30.

This will be a Zoom meeting. If you would like to attend, please call or email me and I will give you the link for this meeting.

Colette Anderson, 815-243-0317
coletteanderson@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Attention Volunteers!

Safe Environment Requirements

Our parish recently had a site visit from the Diocese to review our compliance with the Diocesan Safe Environment policies. Per the Diocesan requirements, "No individual is permitted to work and/or volunteer in the Diocese until their Virtus Online account has all required Safe Environment documentation in the system and are current." If you are a volunteer, please log in to your Virtus account and update any required documents that appear in RED. If you have been assigned any training modules, those will also need to be completed before you can volunteer. Please take the time to also update or complete the personal information sections of your account. The email address is of particular importance as this is the means used to communicate any changes or updates to policies issued by the Diocese.

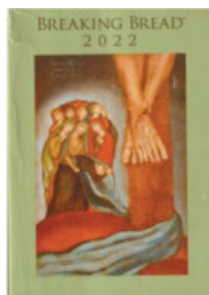
If you do not have a Virtus account set up, you MUST set one up, as this is the required platform for documenting compliance. The easiest way to do this is to go to the Diocese of Rockford website, www.rockforddiocese.org and click on the Safe Environment tab. Click on the Employee/Volunteer tab and proceed according to the instructions. You will need a password from the office to do this. Please call to obtain the password.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Jean Peterson in the church office. Thank you to all our volunteers who assist at our liturgies, ministries and events that make our parish a vibrant community.

St. Elizabeth Center Monthly Collection



For the month of January we will be concentrating on collecting new or gently used linens (sheets, towels, blankets, pillows, etc.). But as you know, they will accept most anything. Remember paper/plastic grocery bags as well as metal clothes hangers are always needed. Thank you for continuing to support this worthy charity that touches the lives of so many people.



2022 BREAKING BREAD BOOK

We have re-ordered 30 more Breaking Bread books. They will be available for the purchase price of \$10 in the Church Office. If you want to own your own Breaking Bread Book, please call the Church Office and sign-up for your book.

The cup of salvation I will raise; I will call on the Lord's Name.

RISE UP
YOUTH MINISTRY



TUESDAY
HANG OUT

MIDDLE
SCHOOL

3PM - 4:30PM SNACKS & DRINKS,
GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP!

BL. CHIARA ROOM

RISE UP
YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH
SCHOOL



TUESDAY
HANG OUT

7PM - 8:30PM SNACKS & DRINKS,
GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP!

BL. CHIARA ROOM



Breaks are great but It's important to get back into the normal routine!

The St. Rita That Man Is You! restarts on Saturday, January 29th, 6:30am to 8:00am in Wahl Hall

Now's a great time to **join or re-join** TMIY - you can jump right in. Make it a New Year's resolution - Try it.



SEWING MINISTRY NEWS

The women of the St. Rita Sewing Ministry created 1979 items for local agencies in 2021, including 654 face masks, 416 Christmas stockings, 278 clothing protectors (adult bibs), 173 pillowcases, 99 decorative pillows, 60 winter hats, and 51 baby blankets. A big thank you to all our parishioners for your continued support of our ministry, especially those who donated sewing machines, fabric, and notions. Anyone is welcome to join our group, which meets from 9-noon on the second Wednesday of the month in Wahl Hall.

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? Ask Mary to intercede for your marriage. The next virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience is on Jan. 8-9; in person Experiences on Feb. 11-13 in Madison, WI or April 22-24 in Brookfield, WI. Visit our website at: alifetimeoflove.org or call (888) 574-5653.



PREPARE AHEAD

St. Rita will be sending out charitable contribution statements soon. The statements go out by **e-mail**. If you need to update your e-mail, address and phone number, please do so as soon as possible. Contact the Church Office or e-mail us at: parishoffice@stritarockford.org with your current information so that we can change our records. If you **do not** have an e-mail address, a paper copy will be available after January 31 in the Church Office.



STUDENT FREE THROW CONTEST

The Student Free Throw Contest sponsored by the Knights of Columbus will be January 30 in the St Rita school gym beginning with **registration** at 1:00 pm

Contest starts at 1:30 pm

Boys		Girls
Ages 9,10,11,12,13 14		Ages 9,10,11,12,13 14

Contest consists of number of free throws made out of 15 attempts.
Basketballs will be provided

Winners for both boys and girls at each age will advance to the District Championship in February at St. Rita.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIBERS

Your **FEBUARY** issue of the Magnificat is available for pick-up in the Church Narthex. They are in the black box which is on the wooden bench. All issues are labeled and organized alphabetically by last name.

Your servant, Lord, your servant am I.



Adult Catechism Scripture Series 2022

7:00 - 8:30 pm

St. Rita, Rockford - Facilitated by *Fr. James Canova*

Monday, February 28th at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

Old Testament Prefigures (*Jesus, Mary, the sacraments, the pope, etc. in the Old Testament? Hmmmnn!*)

Monday, March 28th at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

The Sacrifice in the Old Testament... (*...the Crucifixion, and the Mass*)

Monday, April 25th at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

An Overview of the Books of Scripture (*Omnibus et Singulis*)

Monday, May 23rd at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

Scripture - The Written Tradition (*Where did the bible come from, inspiration, interpretations, etc.*)

Monday, June 27th at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

Old Testament Prophets (*Urim and Thummim – NOT!*)

Monday, July 25th at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

The Gospels (*Hello and Goodbye!*)

Monday, August 29th at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

The Miracles of Jesus (*Look Ma – No Hands!*)

Monday, September 26th at 7 pm in Wahl Hall:

The Parables of Jesus (*... you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children*)

Please register in advance with St. Rita's parish office (815) 398-0853

SUBJECT TO CHANGE



ROCKFORD WALK FOR LIFE

Pictured above is half of the St. Rita group that participated in the 'Walk for Life' in downtown Rockford on January 15th.

SAINT RITA DIRECTORY

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Fr. Brian Grady 815-398-0853 x204
 Email.....bgrady@rockforddiocese.org
Associate Pastor Fr. James Canova 815-398-0853 x203
 Email.....jcanova@rockforddiocese.org
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 Emailjchuntley49@gmail.com
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 Emaillamhunter@comcast.net
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 Emailrobertgcollins@comcast.net
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Catechesis and Evangelization Assistant
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 Emailtpfundstein@stritarockford.org
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Cheryl Hochstetler 815-721-3130
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Kathleen Behrens..... 815-398-0853
 Email.....parishoffice@stritarockford.org

Parish Secretary

Becky O'Hara..... 815-398-0853
 Email.....parishoffice@stritarockford.org

Parish Secretary

Jean Peterson..... 815-398-0853
 Emailparishoffice@stritarockford.org

School Secretary

Carrie Petrak..... 815-398-3466 x220
 Emailschooloffice@saintritaschool.org

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Athletics, Joe Sutherland..... 815-222-7808
Catholic Women's Fellowship, Janine Pigue..... 815-262-4813
Finance Council, Todd Hughes..... 815-670-1654
Knights of Columbus #7624, Jason Sturges.....
grandknight7624@gmail.com
Pastoral Council, Mike Peck 815-494-8968
Homebound Ministry, Dan Burd 815-222-8261
Respect Life, Mary Kinney..... 815-519-7066
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Laura Ortiz..... 815-262-0206

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Parish Office

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St. Rita Catholic Church, Rockford, IL

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