



December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

# St. Thomas Aquinas

*God's People in Extraordinary  
Variety...A Caring  
Community*



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The coronavirus has taken quite a toll on Catholic parish and sacramental life. People are hurting at all levels of church life because the very thing we thrive on—gathering together—has become problematic and potentially life-threatening. Be patient and together we shall overcome as we find safe and creative responses. And keep faith alive in your own home and heart!

“Comfort, give comfort” (Isaiah 40:1). When we look at the state of our planet, our world, our nation, and our community, we may find ourselves discouraged or even hopeless. At the time that this passage from Isaiah was written, the Chosen People certainly felt this way. They had been in exile for as long as they could recall, subjected to the laws and practices of the Babylonian Empire. Most people could not foresee deliverance. But Isaiah insisted that these years of servitude would soon be ending, that their sins had been expiated, and that the LORD would carry them out of this wasteland. Over five hundred years later, Mark uses the same words to describe the coming of “Jesus Christ the Son of God” (Mark 1:1). Two thousand years later it is all too easy to get discouraged and hopeless all over again. But we are reminded that with God, “a thousand years (is) like one day” (2 Peter 3:8). Our lifetimes are but a moment in the mind of God. The world as it exists in 2020 may be troubling, but we can still proclaim, must always proclaim, despite appearances to the contrary, “Here is your God” (Isaiah 40:9). When have you felt abandoned by God? How do you find God when you struggle?

## SACRAMENTS

**Baptism:** Call the Parish Office to schedule your child’s baptism. Parents who have never had a child baptized will need to receive preparation for this sacrament.

**Reconciliation :** Saturday 4:30-5:00 pm or by appointment.

**Marriage:** Please call the Parish Office to make an appointment at least 6 months in advance. No date may be set until after this appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick & Holy Communion for the Sick:** Call the Parish Office to arrange.

**Funerals:** Please call the Parish Office prior to finalizing funeral arrangements.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

Please introduce yourself to the pastor. Registration Packets are available in the narthex.

## STAFF

Pastor.....	Fr. Varghese Maliakkal frvarghese@staindy.org
Pastoral Associate.....	Karla Hudecek khudecek@staindy.org
Parish Accountant.....	Brooke Smith bsmith@staindy.org
Administrative Assistant.....	Cheryl Taylor ctaylor@staindy.org
Music Director.....	Eddy Varner Perez eperez@staindy.org
School Principal.....	Nancy Valdiserri nvaldiserri@staindy.org
School Secretary.....	Laura Amezcua lamezcua@staindy.org
Maintenance.....	Greg Morgan gmorgan@staindy.org

## MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend.....	Saturday 5:30 p.m. Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Weekdays.....	Wednesday/Friday 9:00 a.m. Tuesday/Thursday 6:00 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration....	Thursday 5:00– 6:00 p.m.

## PARISH COUNCIL

Catherine Bickel (Vice President).....	765-730-4134
Grace DeMoss .....	319-9577
Andrew Purdie (School Commission).....	921-1984
Christopher Collins (Stewardship).....	373-8136
Matt ayes.....	670.7863
Jenny Lurkins (Finance).....	214-534-8351
Shanna Martin (President).....	918-4483
Sharon Mason .....	283-1686
Karen Momper.....	414-4341
Sharon Sperry (Spiritual Growth).....	908-6325
Tim Nation (Dialogue, Truth & Faith).....	919-8690
Rocky Marsh (Community Engagement) ...	730-0031
Jackson Herrera (Student Representative)	

**Parish Office:** 4625 N. Kenwood Ave.

Phone: (317) 253-1461

Parish Office Hours: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

**School:** 4600 N. Illinois Street

Phone:: (317) 255-6244

Website: staindy.org



## Please Pray for...

### Our Sick:

Judith Alyea	Matt Jennings
Rosemary Arant	Ragin Kobets
Fr. Dan Atkins	Katherine "Katie"
Michael Barnes	Kohlbacher*
Rennatta Berkshire	Patricia Long
Neve Bowden	Mike Malandrakis*
Jenny Brown*	Barb Martell*
Jay Carrigan	Betty Means*
Ella Comer	Jeanne McFarland*
Cyndi Corbin*	Julie Niec
Martha Corredor	Eileen O'Donnell
Stuart Countryman*	Patrice Payne
Alfred Daupert	Eddy Varner Perez
Cormac Delaney	Marcelino
Dave Ganser*	Quintana*
Jean Gibson	Gail Rowe
Mark Gibson	Steven Saxton*
Robert "Bob"	Don Stillman*
Gibson*	Wanda Strange
Jim Hafner	Cecil Thomas*
Connie Henn	Roberta Thomas
Barbara Jenkins*	Oliver Walsh
Kitty Jenkins	Andy Weidekamp

(\*Family Member of a Parishioner)

### Those in Nursing Homes:

Wanda Strange

### For the Repose of the Soul:

**Evan (Sperry) Terhune**, great-nephew of parishioner Sharon Sperry.

*John the Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist. He fed on locusts and wild honey. And this is what he proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me." - Mk 1:4, 6-7a*

### TITHES & GIFTS November 29, 2020

Actual	\$ 298,278
Budget	\$ 283,608
Over/(Short)	\$ 14,670
Haiti	\$ 26,358
SVdP	\$ 13,084

## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. DEC. 8

Mary provides us the perfect model of obedience, but is her example unrealistic? After all, she was chosen by God before she was born. However, as Paul points out, we were all chosen before the world was created, destined for adoption through Christ. Although we have not received a visit from an angel, we are still given every opportunity to respond to God's will. Will we respond obediently as Mary did---"May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38)? Or will we disobey as Adam and Eve did, giving into temptation and blaming someone else for our weakness? Yes, Mary, "the Lord is with you," but we can emulate her, for the Lord is with us too.

In his papal letter "The Joy of Love," Pope Francis speaks of the "tender gaze" with which Jesus looks on all. He might have learned this from Mary. In marriage, spouses learn to look at each other this tenderly, marveling at goodness even when youth and attractiveness fade, as Pope Francis notes. Negotiating conflicts, seeing challenges as resolvable, and appreciating the "large nest" of extended family must have been skills Jesus gained by spending most of his life in such a setting. The pope suggests turning off mobile devices, creating conversation around the dining table. Can you and your loved ones take the challenge?

As the feast of the Immaculate Conception highlights God's grace touching Mary from the first moment of her conception in the womb, so the **feast of our Lady of Guadalupe** (Dec. 12), emphasizes how Mary continued to participate in the work of the Spirit of the Lord, so that God's grace has touched the world in different lands and cultures over the centuries. How can you emulate Mary this Advent?



### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary  
December 8, 2020  
Mass Times  
10:30 AM & 6:00 PM

### ADVENT GIVING TREE UPDATE

Initial response to the Giving Tree project has been wonderful, but we're not done yet! We will continue to collect gift cards for James Whitcomb Riley School #43 families through **Sunday, Dec. 13th**. Donations also may be made by cash, check or online offering, but please note that they are for the Giving Tree. All donations will be used to purchase gift cards, which will be distributed by the School 43 staff, based on the individual family's needs and size.

When purchasing gift cards, please consider department stores that offer a variety of goods, such as Meijer, Walmart and Big Lots. We ask that you do not box or wrap the gift cards. School personnel will package everything to keep folks safe and healthy.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and willingness to support families facing unprecedented strain and need during this pandemic. Please pray for them, the School 43 students and staff and the success of our project. For more information, contact Cheryl Taylor at [ctaylor@staindy.org](mailto:ctaylor@staindy.org) or (317) 253-1461.

## FROM THE ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT CORNER

As we continue our Advent journey, we are excited to share some special focuses to help enhance our experience.

Let us walk together, now more than ever, embracing this Season of Hope.

**1. JESSE TREE BANNER** – This newly enhanced banner hangs to the left of the altar. Below is a wonderful description of the banner to help every one fully appreciate and embrace its meaning and significance.

### JESSE TREE

The JESSE TREE is named from Isaiah 11:1, “A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of its roots.” The JESSE TREE is used as a symbol to tell the story of Jesus in the Old Testament, representing events from Creation to His Birth. The branch is a Biblical sign of newness out of discouragement which is a manner of envisioning the expected Messiah. Traditionally, the JESSE TREE is decorated each day throughout the Advent Season with ornaments which are symbolic of persons, events or themes. A reading or brief verse from the corresponding Scripture is often presented.

The stylized version of the JESSE TREE on the blue banner to the left is comprised of several major sections.

- The roots at the bottom form the beginnings of the tree and within the tangled roots are the letters J E S S E, the father of King David
- The crooked trunk represents the journey of Advent, the Season of Hope.
- There are four major limbs in the top section of the JESSE TREE, each representing one of the four weeks of Advent. Each limb is adorned with colored leaves, each leaf symbolizing one day in Advent and a Biblical figure in the genealogy of Jesus.
- The upper, far right limb is topped with a double leaf that may be viewed as an abstract star, representing the Birth of Jesus, the final event of the JESSE TREE.

**2. WEEKLY ADVENT READINGS & BANNERS** – Each week of Advent a new banner will be displayed that focuses on one of the readings or the gospel. This Sunday, the second week of Advent, the banner focuses on the first reading, Isaiah 40: 3-5.

**3. EVENING OF STILLNESS IN SACRED SILENCE** – This year our beautiful and peaceful prayer service goes virtual! To focus on the continued health of parishioners, we have created a livestream of the prayer service for parishioners to enjoy in the comfort of their homes. The altar will be adorned in beautiful candlelight all in the glory of Advent. You can access the livestream prayer service via the link within the weekly newsletter throughout Advent.

Remember this provides a special way to personally reflect on your Advent journey. No activity. No program. Just you and God. Pray, meditate or simply spend some quiet time, all in stillness & silence, especially for you.

Enjoy these Special Gifts from Arts & Environment

Intentionally simplistic. Liturgically focused.

Allowing each of us to design our own amazing connection with God.



## SCHOOL NEWS

### SHARE YOUR PHOTOS

This year is upside down and inside out! For many, thanksgiving and Christmas will look like no other holiday before (and hopefully no more after). If you are willing, please share some pictures of how you are celebrating turkey day and Christmas 2020 and we will share them with our STA community. Hopefully we can lift each other's spirits with some fun community photos. Look us up on Instagram, ST\_THOMAS\_INDY46 and direct message your photos OR email pictures to: [sbrown@staindy.org](mailto:sbrown@staindy.org)

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN-PERSON RE SESSIONS PAUSED UNTIL JAN. 24

With COVID-19 cases surging, STA religious education sessions are suspended through Sunday, Jan. 24. Parents are reminded to pick up packets of RE materials from the STA school vestibule (Door #2) from 7 a.m.-7p.m. M-F and noon to 5 p.m. on weekends. Please contact Pastoral Associate Karla Hudecek at [khudecek@staindy.org](mailto:khudecek@staindy.org) with any questions.

### PICTORIAL DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

Confirmation candidates have delivered the majority of the new pictorial directories, and everyone who had their portrait taken should have received one. Please contact the parish office at (317) 253-1461 if yours has yet to arrive. Extra copies of the directories and Celebration Books for the 50-80 Anniversaries also are available through the parish office. Enjoy these resources as a reminder of the friendship and caring we share through our St. Thomas Aquinas community.

## INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

### Saturday, December 5

5:30 pm † Gretchen Graf (Lois Zentner)

### Sunday, December 6

10:30 am † Jake Sperry (Karla Hudecek)

### Tuesday, December 8

10:30 am Our Parish

6:00 pm † Eugene A. Dick

### Wednesday, December 9

9:00 am Our Parish

### Thursday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Our Parish

### Friday, December 11

9:00 am Our Parish

### Saturday, December 12

5:30 pm † Gretchen Graf (Lois Zentner)

### Sunday, December 13

10:30 am † Jake Sperry (Karla Hudecek)

## DATES & EVENTS

### Saturday, December 5•

5:30 pm Mass

### Sunday, December 6• 2nd Sunday of Advent

10:30 am Mass

### Monday, December 7• St. Ambrose

6:00 pm Mass

### Tuesday, December 8• The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

10:30 am & 6:00 pm Mass

### Wednesday, December 9• St. Juan Diego

9:00 am Mass

### Thursday, December 10•

6:00 pm Mass

### Friday, December 11• St. Damasus I

9:00 am Mass

### Saturday, December 12• Our Lady of Guadalupe

5:30 pm Mass

### Sunday, December 13• 3rd Sunday of Advent

10:30 am Mass

## GREEN CORNER

Cosmic Advent Wreath Week 2: Birth of the Solar System (light second candle) *(Sisters of St Francis of Philadelphia)*

“This vast ocean of our solar system is like a womb, that has unfolded over some five billion years to become galaxies and stars, psalms and pelicans, the music of Bach, and each of us alive today.” *Brian Swimme*

God of Light, as we await the coming of the Star of David, fill our minds and hearts with love for our common home. May our footprints upon Earth be small and light, a worthy legacy for future generations.

**WELCOME TO RACE MATTERS,  
a weekly recommendation from the Race and  
Culture Committee meant to inspire us all.**

Advent is a season for preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. One way we can do this is to fight the sin of racism. Many of our Race & Culture committee members have chosen to share their individual Anti-Racism Pledges with you. These will be shared during the remaining weeks of Advent. Please reflect how to make the Pledge a part of your Advent journey.

*"I pledge to educate myself on African and African American history, inclusivity, and racial justice issues, and share what I learn with my family, friends, and co-workers. I am reading Ibram X. Kendi's book "Stamped from the Beginning" which explores the deep history of racism and how the concept of race was developed to justify slavery and the consequences of this still persist today. I've shared this book and bought copies for family members to do deep conversations about how to address racism." TIM NATION*  
**THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE**

**TEA & EMPATHY**

Tea and Empathy will have a zoom meeting on Monday, December 14th. If you are interested in joining our informal support group for anyone who has experienced any kind of loss at any time, please contact Sally at [sdebono1@gmail.com](mailto:sdebono1@gmail.com) so she can send you the Zoom invite and password.

**Readings for the week of December 6, 2020**

**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8  
**Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26  
**Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30  
**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15  
**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19  
**Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47  
**Next Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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