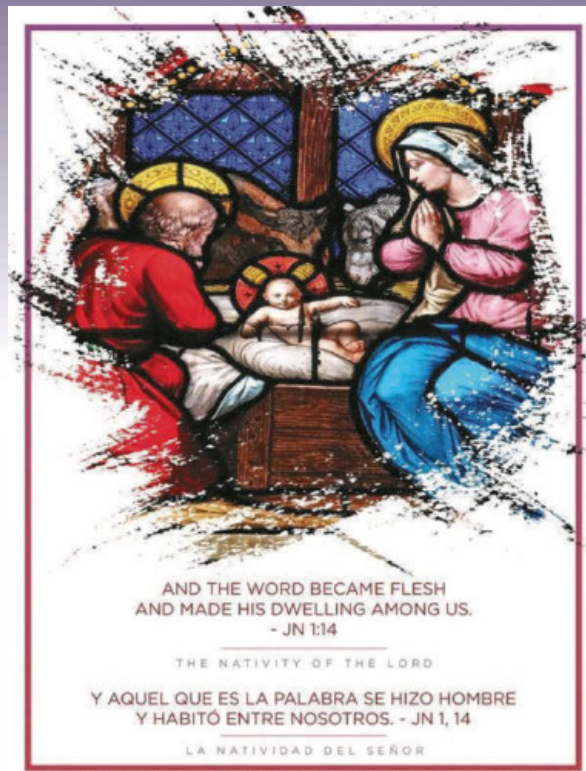


St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Community

Comunidad Católica de
Santo Tomás Apóstol

8100 Brunner Road, Newton, WI 53063
(920) 726-4228

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 AM-4:30 PM



December 31st

Solemnity of Mary Mass
4:30 PM (No Saturday morning Mass)
Office closed.

January 1st

3:15-4:00 PM Reconciliation
4:30 PM Mass

January 2nd

8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, & 1:00 PM Spanish Masses

Mission Statement

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Community exists to be a vibrant faith-filled community, proclaiming with our lives that God is deeply in love with us. Through open hearts, meaningful worship and compassionate service, we model the Spirit of Christ in the world today.

December 26th, 2021/26 de Diciembre de 2021

Dear Folks,

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...you have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing...” These words from the Prophet Isaiah ring loud and clear in our world today and give comfort all-the-year-through. Many years ago, toward the end of one Christmas Season, tears streamed down my face and grandmother asked what was wrong. I could barely get the words out: “I love Christmas and I never want it to end!” And she just held me in her arms. She wisely replied: “It doesn’t have to. Christmas is right here, in your heart, where it belongs.” Her words gave me comfort.

As best as one can remember at my age (!), it was not about the presents, but about The Presence, a remarkable Presence I could not put into words; it was more than a feeling. Love, comfort, peace, joy, contentment and light became tangible, surrounding and moving through our family; and not just our family, but to my small eyes through the aunts and uncles and cousins and even the whole world! These days I would use the word Incarnate, made flesh, to dwell among us.

My heart is saddened when I hear the phrase: I can’t wait for Christmas to be over! Now you know why I feel so strongly about Christmas, which I fondly call the Season of Love, and why for me, Jesus (Love Incarnate) lives in our hearts forever. It continues to be quite a journey, this life we are given. My heart is strengthened by the fact that we are never alone. We journey together and Christ is with us every step of the way: our Light, our Life, our Love. May these days of the Christmas Season fill our hearts with a Presence that lasts a lifetime!

Blessed and Joyous Christmas! Thank you for being the music of my soul!

Godspeed,
Fr. Dave



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to our senior parish members with January birthdays. You’ve blessed us richly over the years by being in our lives. May God bless you now and always and make his presence known in your lives. We love you.



January 2-Dorothy Grotegut
January 5-Thomas Erdmann
January 7-Janet Kraemer
January 7-Marcy Stein
January 16-Phyllis Carey
January 20-Jacqueline Brandl



Mass Intentions

Thursday, December 30th

8:00 a.m. Al & Gen Backhaus

Friday, December 31st

4:30 p.m. In honor of Bill & Mary
Jo Schmidt’s Wedding
Anniversary

Saturday, January 1st

4:30 p.m. for the Needs of the
St. Thomas the Apostle
Parish Family

Sunday, January 2nd

8:00 a.m. In Memory of John &
Geanne Hynes

10:00 a.m. Intention Still
Available

ATTENTION ALL 49 CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

On January 12th at 6:30 p.m. there will be a Confirmation practice held in church for **ALL Confirmation candidates**. Pam will have a short prayer experience with the CCD students beforehand. It is very important that all confirmands attend this practice.

- Candidates must attend this practice; it is optional for the sponsor.
- A walk through of the Rite of Confirmation will be done as well as the order of the day.
- Assigned seating chart will be shared. (Over 100 seats are needed just for the Confirmation candidates and sponsors.)

Please mark your calendars as this date is very important!

If you have any questions, please contact Pam at pfischer7662@gmail.com.

CALENDAR EVENTS

DECEMBER

27th-Cleaning Day

30th-8:00 AM Mass

31st-Office Closed
4:30 PM Mass

JANUARY

1st-NO AM Mass-No Obligation
4:30 PM Mass as normal

2nd-Masses as normal

3rd-Cleaning Day

4th-7:00 PM Men's Bible Study

5th-10:00 AM Prayer Shawl Gathering
6:15 PM Catechist In-Service

6th-8:00 AM Mass

9th-9:00 AM Religious Ed Gr. 10 & 11

10th-Cleaning Day

12th- 6:15 PM Religious Ed Grades 1-5
6:30 PM Confirmation Rehearsal

St. Thomas the Apostle OTIS Youth Group

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to and from our of all our OTIS youth and leaders. Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas season, enjoying time with your loved ones.

Thank you for supporting the Retirement Collection for Religious. If you still wish to donate, more envelopes are still available in the office.

****2021 Important Financial Tax Information** FOR YOUR TAX PLANNING...**

As we end the 2021 calendar year, please note that according to the IRS laws, your church contributions **must be to the parish office on or before Thursday, December 30th at noon**, or postmarked on or before December 31st. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** **Please note:** This means, if you bring your contribution for 2021 to the parish January 1 or after, even if your check is dated December 31, it cannot be posted to your 2021 statement. Also, all checks sent by mail for your 2021 contributions **must be postmarked December 31** or they cannot be posted to your St. Thomas the Apostle 2021 contribution statement or as a charitable deduction on your 2021 taxes. Thank you for your past generosity to St. Thomas. We are truly blessed to have you as part of our parish family. Contact the parish office for further questions, 920-726-4228.

Homebound, Sick, or Elderly...

For a minister of care to bring Eucharist to your home, please call the parish office (726-4228) or refer to the information below. Sunday Communion Minister for the homebound for the week of

- January 2nd is Phyllis Carey at 920-901-3612.
- January 9th is Merrily Zimmer at 920-901-5031.

Ministers, don't forget to check in before the Mass you attend to receive a blessing before leaving to minister to others.

Funds received the week of December 12th..

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Weekly Budget/Tithe | \$7,800 |
| Tithing/Sacrificial Giving | \$7,342 |
| Difference Between Budgeted & Actual | \$458 |
| Offertory | \$745.80 |
| Unrestricted Our Own Needs | \$530 |
| Unrestricted Donations | \$300 |
| Total | \$8,917.80 |
| Capital Improvement | \$160 |
| Stole Fee | \$50 |
| Christmas Offering | \$150 |
| Cemetery Collection | \$10 |
| World Mission Sunday | \$20 |
| Retirement Collection | \$1,633 |

Scrip Profit...for the week ending 12/12/2021 was \$1,025.28.

Thank you for continuing to support our generous vendors and your parish family, and thank you for using Scrip for your holiday purchases!

The reverse grocery collection each month benefits local organizations, and the groceries collected through mid January will go to **St. Nazianz Christian Center.** Please continue to help our community with hygiene and nonperishable grocery items. The grocery drop-off barrels are found in the corner of the gathering space. Thank you for continuing to share of your blessings.





We are grateful for you and another year of sharing your time and talents in so many ways. Our St. Thomas staff wishes you many blessings and good health in the New Year.

*Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year to all!*

Handicap Parking Available

To inform our new members or those that may now need it...handicap parking is available near the choir room entrance of the church (left of the altar).

Dear Sisters and friends,

Someone asked me about why we are marching for asylum with the migrants. An asylum seeker is someone who is looking for international protection. The country into which they are seeking asylum has the right to check out all the details and grant or refuse asylum. Some will not be recognized as refugees and not every migrant we serve here at Kino is seeking asylum, but there are frequently some who are trying to escape danger, abuse or violence in their own countries. Under international law people have a right to seek asylum. But the USA is not open to asylum seekers under a Trump edict when the danger of Covid closed the borders. And although President Biden promised to again open the border to asylum seekers, he has yet to keep that promise.

I want to share two cases with you of two women in Kino 's shelter. Names are changed. Cecilia is from Honduras. She is 21 and left her home to seek asylum in the US. Why? She was sexually abused repeatedly by her own Father and Uncle. She escaped their presence with the hope that she could find refuge in the US, because the law enforcement in Honduras is corrupt and does little or nothing to protect its citizens. She just joined my English class and is the "new star," as she studied it for two years there. Her case will be taken up by our lawyers to present to immigrant lawyers in the US as Special case.

A Mexican mother and her two teenage daughters are in our shelter because they escaped from an abusive husband. He had her incarcerated in a one room dwelling of the house; it had one high window. Food and water were given them. This occurred from the time Juana was "given" to the man at 14 years old. He wanted children, but she was yet unable to have them. After 3 years she had a son, and later the two girl teens with her. Her son was death-threatened by the Father when he challenged him about physical abuse, and at 12 years old he managed to escape the house. Some good person helped him survive and got him an education. From 12 to 18 he managed to sneak books and educational material back through the window, and the two girls learned as much as they could. They are my other "star" students now learning English. Within the last year the now 20-year-old son was able to rescue the three and they were for a time in an apartment in Nogales, but it was found out the Father was searching for them, (he is a military man) so they sought refuge in Kino. Their case has also been presented for special asylum. We pray that they might live freely and begin anew in the US. They are very motivated to learn English.

I could share more real- life stories, and would encourage you to seek out the book I mentioned in my first letter, *Voices of the Border*, edited by Sr. Engracia Robles, with whom I live, and a partner. It is a bilingual book, with English intros to each chapter, before the witnesses give their true stories in both languages. Pray, please that asylum will again open to many who just want to live in peace and with dignity. It is a good Christmas prayer to include in your intentions. Thanks for listening.

Sister Marlita

Liturgical Ministry Schedule

December 31st , January 1st & January 2nd

| | 4:30 PM | 4:30 PM | 8:00 AM | 10:00 AM |
|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Server(s) | Ken Jacky Volunteer Needed | Laurie Jonasen Ella Grotegut | Kameron Schaefer Bob Wallander | Bernard Holschbach |
| Hospitality | Carrie Bratz Volunteers Needed | Jeff Brost Clevin Hady Volunteers Needed | Jan Larson Brandon Vogel April Vogel Wayne Wallander | Rick Hoffman Mary Hoffman Rita Muench |
| Cross Bearer | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Volunteer Needed | Jesse Klinzing |
| Proclaimers | Anne Neeb Barb Graf | Barb Graf Dick Glueckert | Jacque Bartow Terry Burbey | Clevin Hady Ann Hansen |
| Eucharistic Minister | Deacon Steve | Deacon Steve | Deacon Rich | Deacon Rich |
| Sacristan | Bonnie Jacky | Bonnie Jacky | Joann Otte | Renee Siikarla |

Poinsettias In Memory of & In Honor of

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>Deceased family of Art & Irene Rieth</p> <p>Deceased family of Bill & Nina Brunner</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Judi Roberts</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Norbert & Rose Meidl</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Victor Dewane</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bill Meidl</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Marie & Walter Tomaszewski</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Johnson/Ehlers Loved Ones</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Art Naylor</p> <p>Ulrich & Helen Duveneck Family</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Frank & Verona Pribek Family</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Donald Pribek</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Christopher Vogel</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Harry & Sally Walters</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Don Stock</p> <p>Arnold, LaVerne & Jr. Stock</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Florence Kraemer</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Cordelia Knorr</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Roy Knorr</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">John Knorr</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Francis Monigal</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Dorothy Monigal</p> | <p>Milton & Edith Mueller</p> <p>Deceased Members of Manderle Family</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Joseph & Florence Miller</p> <p>Deceased Members of Arnold &</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Margaret Miller Family</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bernard Hertel</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Val Sessler</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bert Schwartz</p> <p>Rita & Alfred Binversie</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Jeanette Schermetzler</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Reed Family</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The Denil Family</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Butch Hickmann</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ed Staudinger</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Janet Parizek</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Bruce Jonasen</p> <p>Brost & Staudinger Families</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Tom Miller</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">David Sieracke</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ralph Hubbartt</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Burnell Hubbartt</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Andrea Hubbartt</p> | <p>Victor Wolf</p> <p>Leeander Wolf</p> <p>Veronica Wolf</p> <p>Ivan Ruzici I</p> <p>Wayne Voss</p> <p>Leila Gottsacker</p> <p>Joseph & Rosella Reedy</p> <p>Edward & Florence Frelich</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Floyd Shimek</p> <p>Norbert Hickmann</p> <p>Betty & Lloyd Popp</p> <p>Gilbert & Lorina Schwartz</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Shirley Schwartz</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Kenneth Schwartz</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">James Schwartz</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Randy Jost</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ray/Tyler Ahl</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Ed Smaglik</p> <p>Lloyd & Doris Meyer</p> <p>Matt & Charleen Lensmire</p> <p>Roman, Theresa & Bill Koenig</p> <p>In Honor of JoAnn Krejcarek</p> |
|---|--|--|

How about family crafting during the holidays?

Our St. Thomas supply of baptism blankets is shrinking. If you are in the crafting mood to sew or tie blankets, we'd gladly accept them and would greatly appreciate your donations. Baptism blankets may be dropped off at the office during office hours or before or after Mass. We thank you for sharing!

Lost & Found

The lost and found bin in the coat room has been filling up. If you've misplaced items, please check the bin or the table near the coatroom. Numerous hats, mittens, and other items await. Unclaimed items will be **donated after January 16th.**

The American Duty organization seeks potential host families for Afghan refugees (families and/or singles) currently residing on military bases. Helping these refugees reach independence as soon as possible is the goal, while understanding this is a major adjustment for them. Interested potential hosts should contact Lindsay Betz at Lindsay@americanduty.org.



Livestreaming... Does the livestream sometimes have you frustrated? Please know that we have inquired with our internet service provider regarding our internet capabilities for livestream. Please understand that due to St. Thomas's physical location, we are at the very end of the line of service regarding internet equipment and speed. We are in the process of researching and exploring other service options and contracts for the future. We appreciate your understanding and patience until we can find a more reliable internet source and modify some of our present capabilities.

Father David Beaudry, Pastor
david.beaudry.82@gmail.com

Deacon Rich Bahnman
Baptismal Preparation
rbahnman@yahoo.com

Deacon Steve Zimmer
deaconstevez@gmail.com

Pam Fischer, Creating Catholic Disciples &
All Education Opportunities, Mon-Thurs
pfischer7662@gmail.com

Julie Koenig, Director of Liturgical Music
Choir & Musicians
julieannkoenig@gmail.com

Joe Backhaus, Cemetery Maintenance &
Marking
joebackhaus@icloud.com

Sara Wilke, Administrative Assistant &
Cemetery Clerk, Scheduling Church
Activities, Cemetery Sales & Records
wilke.sara05@gmail.com 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
stthomascemeteries@gmail.com

Alina DeWitt, Hispanic Ministry,
Tues & Thurs 11 a.m.-1 p.m.,
dewitt.alina@gmail.com

Barb Dehne, OTIS Youth Coordinator
barbdehne@hotmail.com


Prayer Chain
stthomasreceptionist@gmail.com

Vickie Frauenfeld, Administrative &
Liturgical Coordinator
Bulletins, Building Needs, Ministry &
Liturgy
vickfrau@gmail.com

The Holy Family

Reading 1: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
Reading 2: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

How would you have reacted if you
were Mary and Joseph finding Jesus in
the Temple?

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
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Queridos amigos,

"El pueblo que andaba en tinieblas ha visto una gran luz ... les has traído abundante gozo y gran regocijo ..." Estas palabras del profeta Isaías resuenan fuerte y claramente en nuestro mundo de hoy y dan consuelo a todos. todo el año. Hace muchos años, hacia el final de una temporada navideña, las lágrimas corrían por mi rostro y mi abuela me preguntó qué pasaba. Apenas podía pronunciar las palabras: "¡Amo la Navidad y no quiero que nunca termine!" Y ella simplemente me sostuvo en sus brazos. Ella respondió sabiamente: "No es necesario. La Navidad está aquí, en tu corazón, donde pertenece ". Sus palabras me reconfortaron.

Lo mejor que uno puede recordar a mi edad (!), No se trataba de los regalos, sino de La Presencia, una Presencia notable que no pude expresar con palabras; era más que un sentimiento. El amor, la comodidad, la paz, la alegría, la alegría y la luz se volvieron tangibles, rodeando y moviéndose a través de nuestra familia; y no solo nuestra familia, sino para mis pequeños ojos a través de las tías y tíos y primos e incluso el mundo entero! En estos días usaría la palabra Encarnado, hecho carne, para habitar entre nosotros.

Mi corazón se entristece cuando escucho la frase: ¡No puedo esperar a que termine la Navidad! Ahora sabes por qué siento tanta pasión por la Navidad, a la que cariñosamente llamo la Temporada del Amor, y por qué, para mí, Jesús (el Amor Encarnado) vive en nuestros corazones para siempre. Sigue siendo todo un viaje, esta vida que se nos da. Mi corazón se fortalece por el hecho de que nunca estamos solos. Caminamos juntos y Cristo está con nosotros en cada paso del camino: nuestra Luz, nuestra Vida, nuestro Amor. ¡Que estos días de la temporada navideña llenen nuestros corazones de una Presencia que dure toda la vida!

¡Feliz y bendita Navidad! ¡Gracias por ser música de mi alma!

Buena suerte,

P. Dave

*De todo el personal de Santo Tomás
Apóstol ...*

*Estamos agradecidos con ustedes y
por otro año de compartir su tiempo y
talentos de muchas maneras. Les
deseamos muchas bendiciones y
buena salud en el Año Nuevo.*

Feliz Navidad

Y

Feliz Año Nuevo a todos.

