

**Solemnity of Mary,
Mother of God
(NOT a Holy Day of
Obligation this year)**

**Fri, December 31
7-10 pm at STA**

- ◇ Praying of the Holy Rosary
- ◇ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Benediction)
- ◇ Healing & Deliverance
 - ◇ Holy Mass

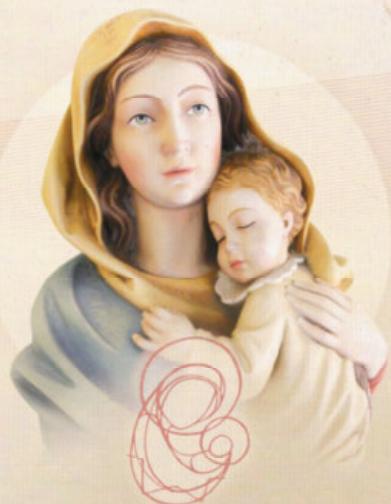
**Sat, January 1
8:30 am at STA**

St. Mary & St. Thomas Aquinas

Williams, Webster City

Hospitality Prayer Formation Service

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY,
THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD



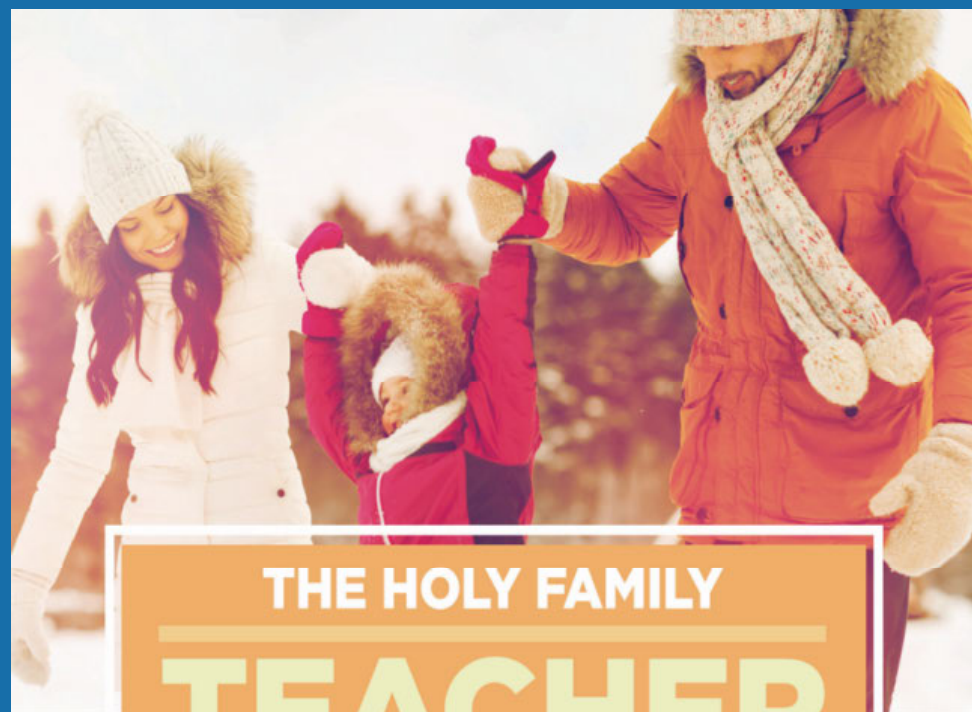
Stewardship

Holy Family - December 26, 2021
The first reading today provides a challenging blueprint for the good stewardship of our family relationships.
How do I measure up?

New Year's Day - January 1, 2022
The Gospel today says that, having found the infant Jesus, the shepherds returned to their work, "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen." We, too, have seen and celebrated the mystery of the Word made flesh. Will we follow their example when we return to work tomorrow?

Website:

www.stthomaswc.org



THE HOLY FAMILY

TEACHER

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. - Lk 2:46-47

Al tercer día lo encontraron en el templo, sentado en medio de los doctores, escuchándolos y haciéndoles preguntas. Todos los que lo oían se admiraban de su inteligencia y de sus respuestas. - Lc 2, 46-47

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

December 26, 2021

**STA SCHOOL-<https://www.facebook.com/stthomasaquinaswc/>
STA & St Mary Churches - <https://www.facebook.com/stthomaswc/>**

St. Mary & St. Thomas Aquinas

December 26, 2021 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness. Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too. ©LPi

New Year's Eve Program 12-31-21 at St Thomas 7-10 pm

This year we are having a New Year's Eve program consisting of: Praying of the Holy Rosary, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Benediction), Healing & Deliverance followed by Holy Mass. After Mass we will have hors d'oeuvres & champagne in the foyer to celebrate. We will have a special music group coming from Chicago. On Dec 18/19, we will be taking up a second collection at all 3 churches to help cover this expense, please be generous!

Our Faith School Tuition Update

The Our Faith STO and Catholic school families have reasons to celebrate!

Thanks to the support of almost 1,200 donors across the Archdiocese, the Our Faith School Tuition Organization has reached its 2021 fundraising goal of \$5,391,464. This total is dramatically higher than what was donated during the pandemic and derecho year of 2020 and will enable us to help many more school families with tuition assistance in the 2022-23 school year!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this milestone happen. If you'd like to learn more about making a donation for 2022, please visit our website at www.OurFaithSTO.org, or contact Deacon Brian Zeman at b.zeman@dbqarch.org or 563-556-2580 x296

YOUR YEAR-END GIFTS ARE VITAL TO THE MINISTRY OF ST MARY & ST THOMAS

As we come to the end of 2021, we want to thank you for your generous gifts throughout the year to support St. Mary & Thomas Aquinas! Our churches have a history of year-end giving that helps us to meet current needs and empowers us to continue our ministry. As we close out 2021, we are praying for continued generosity to help us to finish 2021 on budget and give us a boost toward 2022.

At St Thomas, we have monthly expenses that are often times in excess of our income and we did need to take out an operating loan of \$50,000 from the Archdiocese in November to avoid using campaign funds for daily operating expenses. It is our hope that with your help and generosity we can pay this off by year end. As we approach the new year and work to grow and thrive as a parish community, we invite and encourage you to be involved in ways that work for you and your family. The opportunities are all around us.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can make a difference with a special year-end gift. May God richly bless you!

If you would like a year to date statement, please call or email Rita in the office, I can tell you the amount or send a paper copy.

ALL DONATIONS FOR 2021 MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY 12-31!!

Have you noticed blue tape on the pews here and there, if so, please leave it there. We are marking areas that need to be touched up by the builders. If you see a spot anywhere in church; pews, furniture, paint, flooring, etc., please let an usher, Heidi, Rita or Dan know so we can mark it. Thank you!!

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER Mass cancellations are called in to the local radio station KQWC and Pat Powers also puts that on Facebook and other media sites. It is also called in to WHO and KCCI TV stations. Please listen to the radio, check the television stations and/or the TV websites. It may take some time for the TV notices to update, so please check frequently.

Readings for the Week

Readings for the week of December 26, 2021

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52
Monday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5-2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40
Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18
Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

Rosary Group January 4 & 18, 6 pm

Every 1st & 3rd Tues of the month,

Erin Tasler will be leading the Rosary.

We are starting a Children's Rosary also, second Sun 10 am, third Tues 6 pm

Everyone is invited to attend.



Got SCRIP?

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Directory

St. Thomas Parish Offices 515-832-1190
 STA Fax: 515-832-3757

St. Mary Parish Office 515-854-2241

Sts. Peter & Paul Parish Office 515-292-3810

Pastor Fr. Francis Kwame Anane
 Email: dbq218@dbqarch.org
 Rectory (local#) 515-606-4069

STA & SM Secretary/Bookkeeper - Rita Wolfram
 Email: dbq218sec@dbqarch.org
 Phone: 515-832-1190 Cell: 515-835-2129

Director of Liturgy & Faith Formation - Deacon Dan Hurt
 Email: dbq218re@dbqarch.org
 Phone: 515-832-1190 Cell: 515-835-9972

Director of Music - Melissa Hindt
 Email: dbq218s@dbqarch.org
 Phone: 515-832-1190

Development Director - Heidi Tesdahl
 Email: dbq218s1@dbqarch.org
 Phone: 515-832-1190 Cell: 515-835-9359
 Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 8:00 am-4:00 pm

School Phone: 515-832-1346
 School Fax: 515-832-1212

School Principal - Theresa Schleisman
 Email: tschleisman@stswc.com

School Secretary - Sharon Smith
 Email: ssmith@stswc.com

SSPP Secretary - Cindy Phelan
 Email: dbq091s@dbqarch.org
 Phone: 515-291-2272

Kristin Taylor - website & church reservations
 Cheryl Larson - bulletin
 Email: stpeterandpaulgilbert@gmail.com

Directors of Faith Formation - Heather Slifka & Nicole Jonas
 Email: stspeterandpauldff@gmail.com

Office Hours

St. Thomas Aquinas
 Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
 OPEN during lunch.

St. Mary & Sts. Peter & Paul
 By appointment. Call Father at the STA Church
 Office or the rectory to make an appointment.

Bulletin deadline is Monday, noon for any notices, announcements etc. you wish to have included in the bulletin. Please call, email or drop off the notice to the office. The bulletin can now be emailed to you weekly, if you would like your email included, please call or email Rita at the office to be put on the list!

St. Thomas Aquinas Committees
 Pastoral Council Chair-Brian Menage 515-490-2481
 Finance Council Chair-Ray Lammers 641-757-1311
 Stewardship Chair-
 Parish Life Chair-
 Faith Formation Chair-
 School Board Chair-Jeanne Hill 515-297-0607
 K.C. Grand Knight-Kyle Heffernan..... 515-293-0026
 Prayer Chain-Bridget Roden 515-832-3992
 Linda Groves 515-832-3041

St. Mary Committees
 Finance Chair-Keith Bowden..... 515-859-7004
 Pastoral Council Chairs-Annette Jeffers ... 515-689-3509
 -Sharon Wiese ... 515-835-0177
 Prayer Chain-Mary Fankhauser 515-571-3911
 Rod Dagit 515-854-2200

Sts. Peter & Paul Committees
 Pastoral Council Chair-Amy Crabbs..... (515) 291-9088
 Catholic Charities..... 1-800-772-2758

Pastoral Care

Please call the parish office if you would like Fr. Anane to visit you during a hospital stay, or you are in need of pastoral care or prayer support. With the privacy laws, health care facilities can only call us if specified by the patient. Call 832-1190. Also, if you or a loved one are homebound, please call the parish office to make arrangements for a minister to visit and bring communion.

Sacraments

Reconciliation
 Reconciliation times will be 30 minutes before Masses. Appointments can also be made at any time.

Baptism
 Celebrated during weekend Masses. Parents are required to take a pre-baptismal class at St. Thomas Aquinas before scheduling the baptism. Register by calling 832-1190.

Matrimony
 Couples planning marriage are asked to make an appointment with the Pastor at least 6 months before anticipated date of marriage to discuss preparations and necessary requirements.

PARISH SUPPORT
We now have a "donate" button on our Facebook page and online on the website is also available!!

St. Thomas Aquinas Collections

<u>December 12, 2021</u>	
ADULT Envelopes	\$38,875.00
Offertory Collection	\$95.80
Dec 1st & 15th Auto-Tithe & Online donations	\$
TOTAL	\$38,970.80
<u>December 19, 2021</u> NOT AVAILABLE AT PRINT TIME	
ADULT Envelopes	\$
Offertory Collection	\$
Dec 1st & 15th Auto-Tithe & Online donations	\$
TOTAL	\$

Total amount needed weekly to cover expenses \$11,440.00

St. Mary Collections

<u>December 12, 2021</u>	
ADULT Envelopes	\$655.00
Offertory Collection	\$58.00
TOTAL	\$713.00
<u>December 19, 2021</u> NOT AVAILABLE AT PRINT TIME	
ADULT Envelopes	\$
Offertory Collection	\$
TOTAL	\$

Total amount needed weekly to cover expenses \$1,460.00

Thank you for your gifts to God through your church.
 Auto Tithing is available for STA parishioners, directly from your bank account on the 1st or 15th of the month.
 832-1190 to sign up. Your generosity is appreciated!

Church Happenings

Sat, Jan 1 SM Social Justice Collection
 Tues, Jan 4 6 pm SSPP Pastoral Council Meeting
 6 pm STA Rosary Group
 Thurs, Jan 6 7 pm STA Finance Committee Meeting
 Fri, Jan 7 9 am-6 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 10 am Social Justice Meeting
 Sun, Jan 9 10 am Children's Rosary
 Tues, Jan 11 7 pm STA Pastoral Council

School News

STA would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New year!!!

Classes resume Tuesday, January 4th.

Faith Formation

Wed, Dec 29 NO Youth Faith Formation
 Wed, Jan 5 6:30-7:30 pm Youth Faith Formation resumes



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
 during 10:30 am Sunday Mass.
 It is open to all children 4-7 yrs of age.

Church Directory

Unique Church Solutions will be assisting us to put together a new directory in January. Several dates for pictures have been scheduled: **January 18-20 at STA**
January 21-22 at SM and
back to STA January 26-29



There are flyers in the bulletins, you may schedule your own appointment online or we will have volunteers before and after Masses scheduling times for pictures. You may have your pictures taken any day, if you are from St Mary, you can schedule at STA and vice-versa, just note which parish you belong to.

We, the parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas, remain rooted in Christ by: creating a spirit of hospitality in all that we do, celebrating the liturgy with great care and devotion, placing the goal of active participation before all else, witnessing faithfully to God's presence and love in our daily lives and effectively communicating that message, sharing our God-given gifts and caring responsibly for those in need.

We, the community of St. Mary Church, strive for Heaven by devoting ourselves to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit through worship, prayer, and service by living virtuous lives as disciples of Christ, loving our neighbors, proclaiming our faith, and passing it on.

We are glad you worshipped with us. How may we serve you?

- I am a visitor
 - I am interested in becoming a parishioner of
 - _____ St. Mary, Williams
 - _____ St. Thomas Aquinas, Webster City
 - I would like to learn more about the Catholic faith
- Please note the change of my personal information

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____
 Request/comments _____

Please cut out the above information and place in the offering basket.

Mass Schedule

St. Thomas Aquinas
 Saturday 6:00 pm
 Sunday 10:30 am
 Mondays 8:30 am
 Tuesdays 8:30 am
 Wednesday 8:30 am

St. Mary
 Saturday 4:00 pm
 Thursday 8:30 am

Sts. Peter & Paul
 Sunday 8:00 am

Nursing Home Masses
NONE AT THIS TIME DUE TO COVID-19
MASS TIMES MAY CHANGE FOR HOLY DAYS—
WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR INFORMATION.

MASS INTENTIONS

All STA Saturday evening Masses will be live-streamed & in person unless there is an issue with the broadcast, then STA Sunday will be live-streamed. You are able to watch the videos of the Masses at any time after the live-stream has ended.

Mon.	Dec 27	NO 8:30 am	Mass at STA
Tues.	Dec 28	8:30 am	STA - Mike Rosalez
Wed.	Dec 29	8:30 am	STA - Kliegl Family
Thurs.	Dec 30	8:30 am	SM - Marie Ricke
Fri.	Dec 31	9:00 pm	STA - Dean & Judy Ellis
Sat.	Jan 1	8:30 am	STA - SM, SSPP, STA Parishioners
Sat.	Jan 1	4:00 pm	SM - Larry McCormick
		6:00 pm	STA - Don & Donna Williams
Sun.	Jan 2	8:00 am	SSPP-SM, SSPP, STA Parishioners
		10:30 am	STA - Millie Anderson

Ministry Schedule

We welcome any newcomers or young people who would like to share their gifts and talents.

St. Thomas Saturday, January 1 at 8:30 am
 Reader volunteer
 Altar Servers volunteers
 Comm. Ministers Deacon Dan Hurt
 Sacristan volunteers
 Pianist/Cantors Melissa Hindt/Anyone is welcome
 Hospitality Team volunteers

St Mary Saturday, January 1 at 4:00 pm
 Greeters volunteers
 Reader volunteer
 Altar Servers volunteers
 Gift Bearers volunteers
 Comm. Ministers Deacon Dan Hurt
 Pianist/Cantor Michelle Jergens/Chris Slauson

St. Thomas Saturday, January 1 at 6:00 pm
 Reader Julie Olmstead
 Altar Servers volunteers
 Comm. Ministers Deacon Dan Hurt
 Sacristan Greg Kienzle
 Pianist/Cantors Jean Fox/Greg Kienzle
 Hospitality Team Millie Oleson, Scott Neuroth
 Shawn Campbell, Lynn Reinsch

St Thomas Sunday, January 2 at 10:30 am
 Reader Heidi Tesdahl
 Altar Servers volunteers
 Comm. Ministers Deacon Dan Hurt
 Sacristan Matt Shannon
 Pianist/Cantors ... Michelle Jergens/Chris & Josh Fitzgerald
 Hospitality Team LuAnn & Roger Garvey
 Jenny & Greg Maharry

CELL PHONES: A reminder to everyone to turn off cell phones when they come to Mass. Thank you!

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Office Hours by Appointment



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