

December 2, 2018 / 1st Sunday of Advent



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

## Catholic Community Welcomes You!

**Parish Advent Reconciliation, Thurs., December 6 at 6:30 pm**  
**Calendar Raffle Tickets Are on Sale NOW!**

### PARISH STAFF

#### Pastor:

Father Tony Andrade ..... ext. 105  
frandrade@aol.com

#### Bookkeeper:

Shirley Anderson ..... ext. 103  
sanderson1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

#### Administrative Asst.:

Mary Jo Luedtke ..... ext. 101  
mluedtke1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

#### Dir. Faith Formation:

Deone Parnell ..... ext. 108  
dparnell1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

#### Director of Liturgy:

Rosemarie Whitehead ..... ext. 109  
rwhitehead1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

#### Director of Music:

Robin Medrud ..... ext. 107  
rmedrud1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

#### Pastoral Associate:

Sue Kainz ..... 651-707-6874

#### Custodian:

Bryce Hauck

### Sacrament of Baptism

Call Deone Parnell in the Parish Office to make arrangements.

### Sacrament of Marriage

To allow sufficient time for marriage preparation arrangements should be made at least 8 months in advance. Parish membership is required. Contact the Marriage Prep Coordinator.

### New Member Registration

Contact the Parish Office if you are interested in joining or there are New Parishioner Packets available in the narthex.

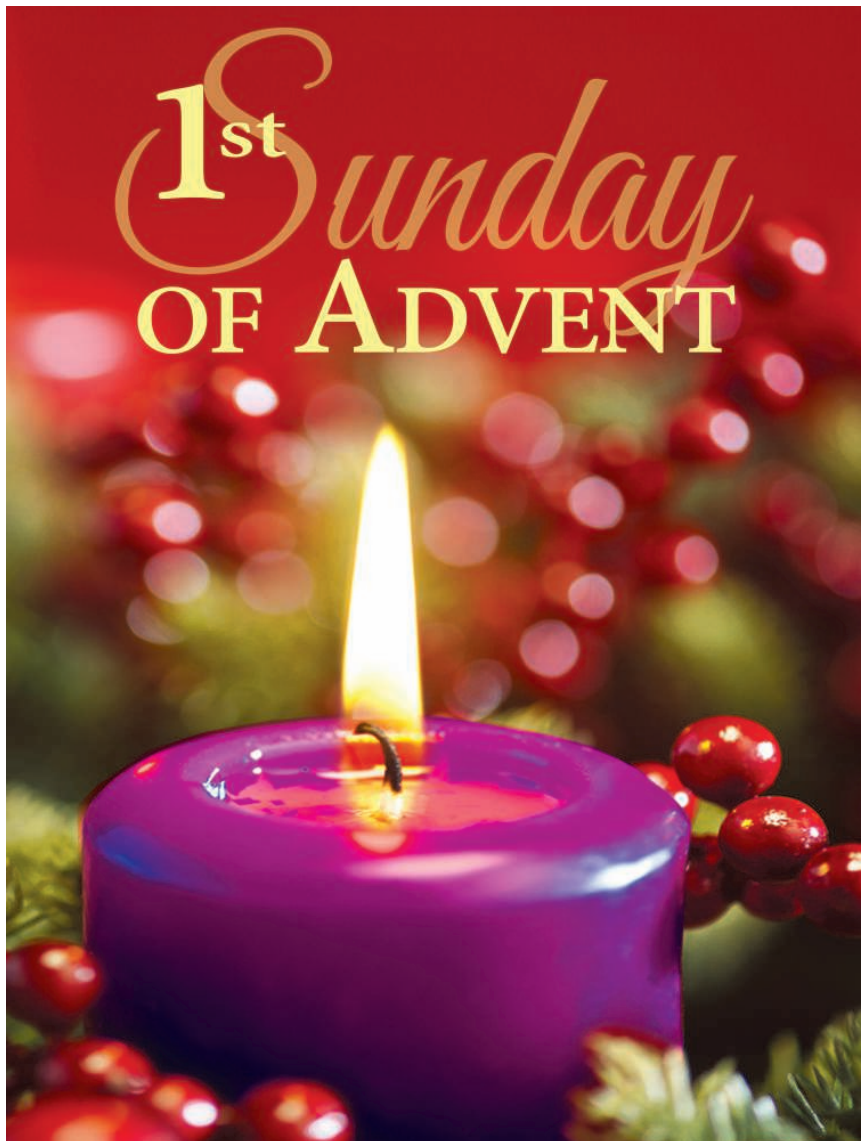
**Gluten Free Hosts** are available. Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

### Victim Assistance Hotline

The Archdiocese offers a 24-hour Victim Assistance Hotline at 651-291-4497.

### Get Our Parish App!

Text stthomas1 to 555888 for iPhone  
Text stthomas2 to 555888 for Android



### PARISH OFFICE

920 Holley Avenue ♦ St. Paul Park, MN 55071

Phone: 651-459-2131 ♦ Fax: 459-8756 ♦ <http://www.st-thomas-aquinas.com>

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, closed Noon - 1:00 pm  
Friday: Closed

**Mass Times:** Saturday: 4:00 pm ♦ Sunday: 8:30 and 10:30 am

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK**

*Theme:* Be on guard!

*Question for Children:* What helps you to grow in your faith? Who helps you?

*Question for Youth:* Advent is the Church season when we prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas. What is one thing you can do to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas?

*Question for Adults:* Paul exhorts us to "make greater progress" in our spiritual lives. What one step could you take to make greater progress in your own life?

**BULLETIN ARTICLES FOR DEC. 15/16**

All Bulletin articles for:

Dec. 15/16: need to be in no later than 8:00 am on Dec. 10.

Dec. 22/23 & Dec. 29/30 will be a combined bulletin: articles need to be in no later than 8:00 am on Dec. 14.



**PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION**

Prepare for Christmas and join together to celebrate God's loving mercy. Our Reconciliation Service is Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 pm.



**CHILDREN'S PAGEANT AND CHOIR**

As in years past, we invite children in grades 1 – 6 to participate in re-enacting the Christmas story and singing in the children's choir at the 4pm Children's

Mass on Christmas Eve. There will be three rehearsals:

**Saturdays, Dec. 8 & 15 & 22 at 1:00 pm**

Please call Rosemarie (459-2131, ext. 109) or Robin (459-2131, ext. 107) to sign up!

**MEN'S CLUB MEETING**

The Men's Club meeting on Thursday, December 6 will start at 7:30 pm following the parish Reconciliation Service in the Parish Activities Building. All Men in the parish are welcome to attend our meeting. We will be sharing snacks for our Christmas celebration. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Men's Club and share Friendship, Faith, and Fellowship.



**DEATHS OF THE PAST WEEK**

*"Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of God's faithful ones."*

On **November 14** we celebrated the life of **Lois Roeller**. Lois and her husband Gene moved to St. Paul Park over 50 years ago. They raised their children in our parish. Please keep Gene, their

children Sandy, Dan, Sue, and Jeff, and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

On **November 20** we celebrated the life of **Daniel (Dan) Tate**. Dan and his wife Jennie moved to the new community of Cottage Grove in 1960. They raised their children in the parish and were active in the community and parish. They moved away in 1984 when Whirlpool closed their plant here. Please keep Jennie and their children, Dirk and Rory, and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

*May Eternal Light Shine Upon Them*



**TODAY'S GOSPEL SPEAKS OF THE SECOND COMING.**

Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples:

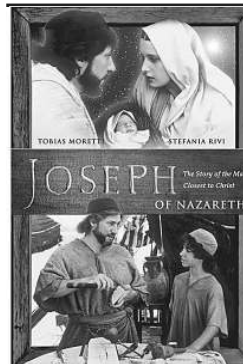
*"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves."*

This Thanksgiving week several government reports on "Climate Change" were released to the public.

On a Thursday in June of 2015, Pope Francis called on the world's 1.2 billion Catholics to join the fight against climate change. In a papal encyclical letter, Pope Francis declared that the science of climate change is clear and that the Catholic Church views climate change as a moral issue that must be addressed in order to protect the Earth and everyone on it.

While we are helpless to do "everything", we can do "something" to address Climate Change. Little things count, be aware of the use of energy, waste, and the little things each of us can do daily. Contact your government representatives and others working for a healthier climate and world. Get involved in the care of God's creation for it affects us all, young and old, rich or poor, and we are all God's children.

*Bob Buckner, Social Justice Commission member.*



**"JOSEPH OF NAZARETH"**

Little is known or written about Saint Joseph. Let us celebrate Advent by looking at his life, this carpenter, the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus. We are shown in this DVD, the human, noble and deeply spiritual aspects of Joseph. As a man of faith, he had to grapple with profound mysteries and incredible challenges. Let Joseph teach us about faith and lead us to Christ this Christmas.

Due to the length, we will show the first half on Dec. 5 and the second half on Dec. 12, 9:30 to 11:30 am in Room 202.

**HOLIDAY COOKIE COLLECTION - DECEMBER 8 & 9**

Thanks to those who signed up to bring holiday cookies for our meal at Dorothy Day. There will be boxes in the narthex to place your cookies NEXT WEEKEND.

**SHARE THE JOY - ADOPT A FAMILY GIFT COLLECTION DECEMBER 8 & 9**

Your gifts should be brought to the narthex NEXT WEEKEND. Thank you for your generosity.

**MANY HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS**

Please remember all of the following who have asked for our prayers in their illness:

Adeline Rumpca	Richard O'Ryan	Kevin Dinger
Mary Baumhover	Mary Tennis	Janet Waldbillig
Rod Hawkins	Denise Bjerke	Bernice Bailey

Please also remember the many members of our parish who are in nursing homes, assisted living, or homebound.


**Pastor's Corner**
**OUR ADVENT JOURNEY**

The days are colder, the nights are longer, and it's a time for waiting. But most important, it's a time for hope! Advent is such an open, creative time of the year, especially if we live it seriously and reflectively. It is a relatively short church Season, just four weeks long. But it calls us to prepare for the various ways Jesus comes to us.



The prophesies of the Old Testament point to the coming of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of Mary, a human being. But they also plan when Christ will reveal His victory over all the limits of time and space. The millions of years of our earthly home are only the beginning of the eternal now, and we are part of that beginning. So we wait with patience, prayer and reflection on God's word for not only the 2000 celebration of Christmas, but Jesus final coming at the end of time.

To help us on our Advent journey, the church offers us support and encouragement. And we need that help to counteract what our culture emphasizes in these weeks before Christmas. Our culture is not into Advent! Christmas decorations were going up even before we celebrated Thanksgiving. As a society we're not real good at waiting, we need everything "Now". Nor are we at ease with our interior quiet and reflection. We have to be reminded that "wasting time" with the Lord is not a sin but the only way to deepen our relationship with the Lord.

During these four weeks of Advent, we need to stop and catch our breath to be quiet and reflect on the meaning of Advent in our lives, on what we mean when we say that Jesus is Lord and King of our lives. We need to take time to look at the Sunday scripture readings before we come to Mass. Reference for these readings is found in the parish bulletin each week.

Spend some time each day in quiet prayer as you welcome the Lord more deeply into your life. Try to recognize Him more clearly in members of your family. With co-workers, your friends at school, your neighbors. And remember, He will and does come in the stranger that happens our way. Advent is a time to "prepare the way of the Lord". To do that we must be patient and quiet, we must allow Advent to slowly permeate and take hold of our lives. Let our prayers be: "Come Lord Jesus, come".

Fr. Tony Andrade

### LOAVES AND FISHES COLLECTION STILL TIME TO HELP

Our volunteers have been feeding the homeless at the Dorothy Day Shelter for over 30 years. For the last several years we have asked parishioners to help fund the purchase of the food we serve each month. The cost is between \$500.00 and \$600.00 per month to feed the 250 people who come for the meal. Our Thanksgiving collection will be used to help defray some of those costs. If you would still like to help provide meals at the Dorothy Day Center please make your check payable to St. Thomas Aquinas with Loaves and Fishes in the memo line. Place your gift check or cash in an envelope marked Loaves and Fishes and place in the regular collection, or you can drop it off at the parish office during business hours. Thank you so very much for your help in continuing this very special ministry all year long.

**MARDI GRAS 2019**

Mark your calendars now!!! Mardi Gras is March 3, 2019. Our theme is "Mardi Gras in the Park".

**FAIR TRADE SALES - DEC. 8 & 9**

Fair Trade products are offered for sale each month on the second weekend. These products ensure that the growers are paid a "fair" wage and work towards preventing sweatshop labor conditions and damage to our land/earth. Check out the coffee, chocolate and cocoa product offerings.

**MEN'S CLUB CALENDAR RAFFLE!**

Calendar Raffle Tickets are on sale Now!

Our Men's Club is sponsoring the Calendar Raffle fundraiser for our parish. Winners drawn each day from January 1, 2019 through April 30, 2019, with winning chances from \$25 up to \$250! YOU will have 120 chances to win with the purchase of a \$20 ticket! You need not be present to win. Purchase your calendar from a Men's Club member, after masses in the narthex on the weekends, or in the parish office! Join in the fun!

### ANOTHER CHANCE TO "ADOPT A CHILD" CHECK OUT THE TREE IN THE NARTHEX

If you are still interested in adopting a child during this chilly time of year we have received requests from the school district for coats, hats, boots and mittens for students at Oltman Middle School. These are not Christmas gifts, but rather needs of students at the school. Take one of the tags off the tree for the items, purchase the items for the student and return them to the narthex the weekend of December 8/9, 15/16, or 22/23. These items do not need to be wrapped as a Christmas gift, place them in a bag and attach the tag to the bag. There will be a special area in the narthex to return these items, so not to get confused with the Share the Joy Adopt a Child program.

### COLLECTION FOR NEW AND GENTLY USED COATS, SNOW PANTS, BOOTS, AND OTHER WINTER GEAR

In the flyer in last weeks bulletin it was stated we would be collecting new and gently used items for kids in the school district. There is a barrel in the narthex if you have any of these items. These items will be given to several local elementary schools for use by their students. Thank you for your generosity.

**FREE BREAD ENDS THIS WEEKEND**

A very special "thank you" to all the volunteers who, for over 35 years, picked up day-old bread from CUB and Rainbow over the years. Friday, November 30 was the last pick-up for our parish. If you are in need of bread, or you know of someone who needs free bread you can stop in at Friends In Need Food Shelf or Stone Soup Thrift Store.

**THIS IS THE SEASON OF ICE AND SNOW.**

Please be careful as you walk from our parking lots to the church. Our plowing company does a good job of clearing our lots, but there might still be ice underfoot. If you see a parishioner struggling in the parking lot, offer a hand to help. We certainly don't want anyone to fall.



### CHRISTMAS ENVIRONMENT

If you are interested in making a donation in memory of a loved one, please cut out and complete this form by December 25, 2018. Place your donation in an envelope marked ENVIRONMENT. Make checks payable to

St. Thomas Aquinas. You may mail your donation or place it in the collection basket. All donations will be applied to environment. **Donation enclosed in memory of:**  
PLEASE PRINT

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**HAPPY 101ST BIRTHDAY ON DECEMBER 9TH  
TO OUR OLDEST PARISHIONER,  
DELORES STOFFEL!**



### ST. THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ **The Word!:** Free, fun, and engaging! At the 8:30 and 10:30 am Masses. Please reach out if you would like to get involved with this uplifting ministry!
- ◆ **Baptism:** Interested in preparing and planning for the Sacrament of Baptism for children? If you would like more information, please contact the Faith Formation office.
- ◆ **Faith Formation Calendar:** You can access the most up-to-date information at [www.st-thomas-aquinas.com/calendar](http://www.st-thomas-aquinas.com/calendar).
- ◆ **Questions, comments:** Deone Parnell at [dparnell1@st-thomas-aquinas.com](mailto:dparnell1@st-thomas-aquinas.com), 651-459-2131 x 108.

### HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY? DO YOU HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER? DO WE HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

Be sure to keep us informed of any of these changes by calling the parish office at 651-459-2131 or by e-mailing Mary Jo at [mluedtke1@st-thomas-aquinas.com](mailto:mluedtke1@st-thomas-aquinas.com). Thank you!

### SICK & HOSPITALIZED

- \* If you are homebound and wish to receive communion or a visit, contact the Parish Office to make arrangements.
- \* If you or a family member are hospitalized and would like a visit or to be anointed, please notify the Parish Office.
- \* Hospitals are not free to share information with us.

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Renee McCawley 459-2641 or Parish Office 459-2131

# THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

KEY (AB) = Activities Building (CB) = Church Basement  
(C) = Church Comn. = Commission Cmte. = Committee

## MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Word & Communion (C)
- 9:00 am - Red Rock Mass
- 1:00 pm - Homeschool Opportunity Monday (C)
- 6:15 pm - Youth Bell Rehearsal (C)
- 7:00 pm - Bell Rehearsal (C)

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Word & Communion (C)
- 6:30 pm - Social Justice Meeting (AB)

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Ferdinand & Emma Danzl † (C)
- 9:30 am - Bible Study (AB)
- 11:00 am - Norris Square Communion Service
- 5:00 pm - Take 5 for Youth! (C)
- 6:30 pm - FF Session (AB)
- 6:30 pm - Confirmation Preparation (AB)
- 7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal (C)

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Anthony, Harriet & Eileen Kazmierczak † (C)
- 6:30 pm - Advent Reconciliation (C)
- 7:30 pm - Men's Club Meeting (AB)

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7

### Parish Office Closed

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Tom Janis † (C)
- 10:00 am - White Pines Communion Service

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8 Immaculate Conception

- 9:00 am - Mass, Alfred Kosse † (C)
- 10:00 am - Brass rehearsal (C)
- 1:00 pm - Children's Choir/Pageant Rehearsal (C)
- 2:30 pm - St. Thomas Ensemble (C)
- 4:00 pm - Mass, Jerome Hebaus † (C)  
Fair Trade Sales

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

- 8:30 am - Mass, Dorothy Hanner † (C)
- 8:30 am - The Word!
- 9:30 am - Sunday Faith Formation
- 9:30 am - Sunday Confirmation
- 10:30 am - Mass, Charlie Weaver † (C)
- 10:30 am - The Word!  
Fair Trade Sales
- 1:30 pm - First Reconciliation (C)

**NOTE:** Weekday Morning Mass/Word & Communion is canceled when a funeral is scheduled.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is celebrated every Saturday at 3:15 pm or by appointment.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 2

- Monday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-9/Mt 8:5-11
- Tuesday: Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-17/Lk 10:21-24
- Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 15:29-37
- Thursday: Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1,8-9,19-27a/Mt 7:21,24-27
- Friday: Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1,4,13-14/Mt 9:27-31
- Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-4/Eph 1:3-12/Lk 1:26-38
- Next Sunday: Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6



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