

December 9, 2018 / 2nd Sunday of Advent



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

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Purchase your Calendar Raffle Tickets Now!!
Joseph of Nazareth, Part 2 on Dec. 12 at 9:30 am

PARISH STAFF

Pastor:

Father Tony Andrade ext. 105
frandrade@aol.com

Administrative Asst.:

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

Dir. Faith Formation:

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Director of Liturgy:

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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.

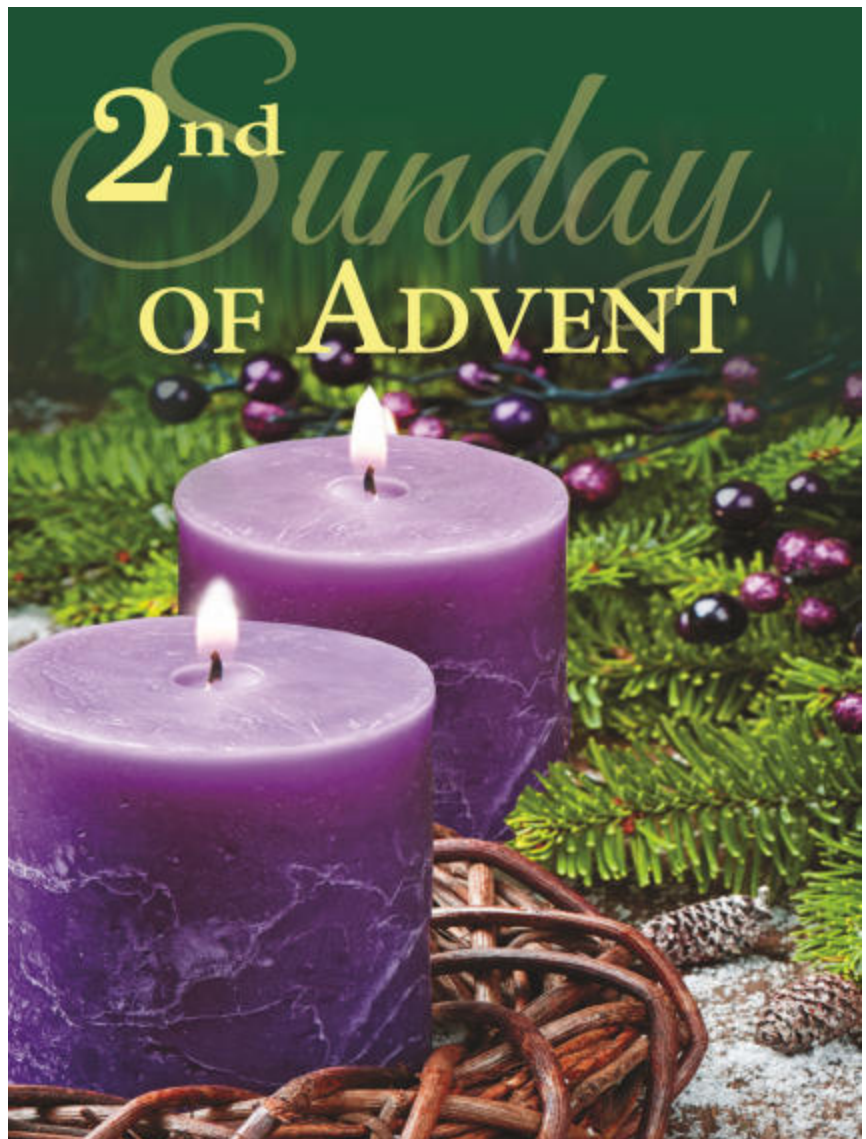
Gluten Free Hosts are available. Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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: We are getting ready to welcome Christ into our hearts.

Question for Children: What things do you do to get ready for a big event or celebration?

Question for Youth: How do you share the Good News of Jesus with others?

Question for Adults: Name one thing you can do to help "prepare the way of the Lord?"



*"A voice of one crying out in the desert:
Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."*

Luke 3:1-6

The word "prepare" is front and center in this gospel as we prepare for Christmas. It is easy in this Season of Christmas to lose focus of what matters. We busy ourselves searching for deals and the perfect gifts for those on our gift list or prepare for the ideal party and gatherings. All of this is a part of our holiday traditions. Christmas comes, and because of our preparations, we are blessed with another Merry Christmas.

There are, however, others unable to prepare for Christmas as we are able. How would I prepare if I was without a job, without my health, alone and grieving? How would I prepare if my home was that of makeshift shelter or car? It may be that for those less fortunate, a pleading prayer is all one has. Perhaps along with the gifts and parties, we might consider seeking out the lowly in our midst, those less fortunate as we prepare for the Coming of the Messiah.

Bob Buckner, Social Justice Commission member

BULLETIN ARTICLES DUE EARLY

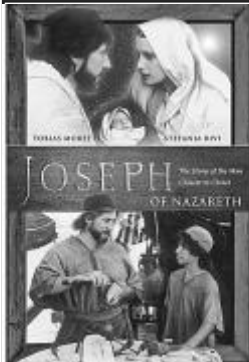
All Bulletin articles for:

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. 13.

CELEBRATING US, CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSITY

Check out the map in the narthex and use one of the pins to mark the country of your ancestors. (Please see the flyer from last week's bulletin.)



"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.

Part 2 of this DVD will be shown on Dec. 12, 9:30 to 11:30 am in Room 202.

**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.



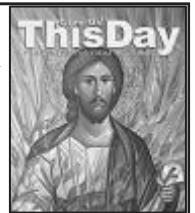
FAIR TRADE SALES - DEC. 8/9 & 15/16

Fair Trade products will be available for sale the second and third weekends in December. Please stop by the Fair Trade table in the narthex after all Masses to pick up some coffee for holiday guests, baking cocoa & chips for your holiday baking and some ever-popular chocolate bars for stocking stuffers. Purchase a thoughtful gift while supporting a better life for small farmers and their families.

GIVE US THIS DAY

Give Us This Day is a monthly publication which includes daily:

- Readings and prayers of the Mass
- Reflections on scripture
- A morning and evening prayer
- A saint or holy person for each day



It also includes the order of Mass, a night prayer, and other seasonal prayers and blessings.

Several parishioners already subscribe to this prayer companion. I will be renewing the group subscription by Jan 5. Cost is \$ 25.00 for the year. Books are picked up in the sacristy. For more information about this, Google "Give Us This Day" and see sample issues. Email or call Rosemarie if you are interested at rwhitehead1@st-thomas-aquinas.com.

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!



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

**2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CHANGE THAT SEEKS GROWTH**

We are in the second Sunday of Advent. The church places before us the season of Advent in the beginning of its liturgical year as an invitation as well as a challenge. It is an invitation to do something, to a certain way of life, and a challenge to do it differently and to be different. What do the voices that we have heard in today's readings calls us to? They call us to something different,



something that is new, they call us to change because we have begun to look at life differently, and therefore we want things to change for the better because it gives us an opportunity to grow as human persons, as Christians, perhaps another chance to get back on track, to put life and all that matters in life, in the right perspective and look to the future with confidence because God will bring about good things. This is what Advent is all about.

But then, we all know from experience that it is easier said than done. It is one thing to believe and be convinced of something, but another thing totally to really transform our beliefs and convictions into actions. We all know how difficult it can be. It is a long process that demands so much that one could get drained out. That is why change is often painful and frightening. Change does not come naturally to most of us. Most of us are set in our ways. We have fixed ideas and points of view about people and the world. We are happy living in our 'comfort zone'. Or we don't try hard enough. We think it is too much for us. We simply give up.

Our Response as Christians: The question is: How are we called to respond as Christians? We are often called, like John the Baptist, to 'straighten winding ways and to make rough roads smooth...' which can indeed be a call to order. That is why we struggle, and need to struggle, so that we can be the kind of people that God meant us to be. That is why our lives often involve a 'dying' to our past, dying to our old self, so that a new present and a future, a new self could be born. There are times we need to let go, hard as it can be, of our own plans and ambitions or things or even people that we are so attached to, so that we may become a new people, the kind of people we are meant to be, doing things differently. We are challenged to take a closer look at our life in relation to God and one another, our families and friends, people who matter to us and don't matter, so that we may grow as Christians and human persons.

Fr. Tony Andrade

**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.



ST. NICK CELEBRATION!

Thank you to everyone who made the St. Nick Celebration last weekend so much fun for the whole family! We learned about St. Nick, enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies, made crafts and a heritage ornament, and the kids went on a search for fun facts about St. Nick and found a treat in their shoes when they returned. A special thank you goes out to Michael who was an amazing young St. Nick and John Hawthorne who volunteered his time to take free family photos. Happy Advent to ALL!

The Shutterfly link is:

<https://stthomasaquinaschurch.shutterfly.com/>

email: st.thomas920@gmail.com and password: 920holley.

**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.



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH
FAITH FORMATION**

- ◆ **First Reconciliation:** First Reconciliation is THIS Sunday. Meeting at 1:00 pm in the church basement. Please contact the Faith Formation office if you have any questions.
- ◆ **Faith Formation is Meeting Wednesdays & Sundays!** Please contact the Faith Formation Office if you have any questions.
- ◆ **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!
- ◆ **HOM (Homeschool Opportunity Mondays):** Welcome HOM! Mondays from 1:00-3:00 pm in the church basement. Open to anyone who has their children or grandchildren at home and would let to get out for fellowship and fun! We do plan field trips, so please email Deone if you would like to join us
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Questions, comments:** Deone Parnell at dparnell1@st-thomas-aquinas.com, 651-459-2131 x 108.



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

By _____

FARE FOR ALL

Fare For All offers nutritious food packs each month at a reasonable price. Offerings include a vegetable pack, meat pack, combo pack and "special of the month." Check it out at www.fareforall.org. Hours are from 4 - 6 pm at All Saints Lutheran Church, 8100 Belden Blvd, Cottage Grove. Upcoming date: Dec. 13. Don't miss out on the holiday pack sold in December.

**FOREVER CHANGED
CONTINUING TO NAVIGATE
THE WINDING ROAD OF CHILD LOSS**

A group for parents and grandparents who are navigating the rocky road of grief following the death of a child. Experience a place to gather where others understand. Each session includes a facilitated lesson, followed by time for small group discussion. 5 Class sessions: \$55 per person, \$85 per couple. Held at South Washington Cty School/Community Center, 8400 E. Pt. Douglas Rd., Cottage Grove. To register for course SR0919 go to: cecool.com or call 651-425-6650. Next date is December 19, 6:30 - 8:00 pm, topic is *Special Days/Special Challenges*.

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.



MARDI GRAS 2019

Mark your calendars now!!!
Mardi Gras is March 3, 2019.
Our theme is "*Mardi Gras in the Park*". Please plan on joining us. Also, if anyone is interested in volunteering to help out and meet a fantastic group of people, please feel free to contact us!!



Thank you! Sincerely, Bob Cronquist, 651-295-9284

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Word & Communion (C)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Ralph Gornick ☩ (C)
- 9:00 am - Red Rock Communion Service
- 9:30 am - Movie: St. Joseph (AB)
- 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)
- 7:45 pm - FF Commission (AB)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Buz Schrantz ☩ (C)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Parish Office Closed

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Bob Meehl ☩ (C)
- 10:00 am - White Pines Communion Service

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 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, Gertrude Narusiewicz ☩ (C)
- Fair Trade Sales

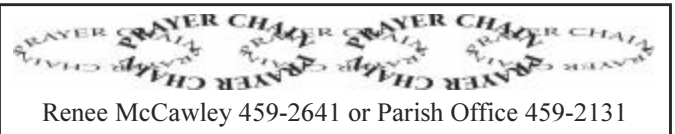
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Fair Trade Sales

- 8:30 am - Mass, James Lence ☩ (C)
- 8:30 am - The Word!
- 9:30 am - Sunday Faith Formation
- 9:30 am - Sunday Confirmation
- 10:30 am - Mass, Patricia Flum ☩ (C)
- 10:30 am - The Word!

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 9

- Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab-14/Lk 5:17-26
- Tuesday: Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-3, 10ac-13/Mt 18:12-14
- Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a;12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde-19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
- Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1,9-13ab/Mt 11:11-15
- Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-6/Mt 11:16-19
- Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac-3b, 15-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
- Next Sunday: Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-6/Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

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