

December 16, 2018 / 3rd Sunday of Advent



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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
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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.

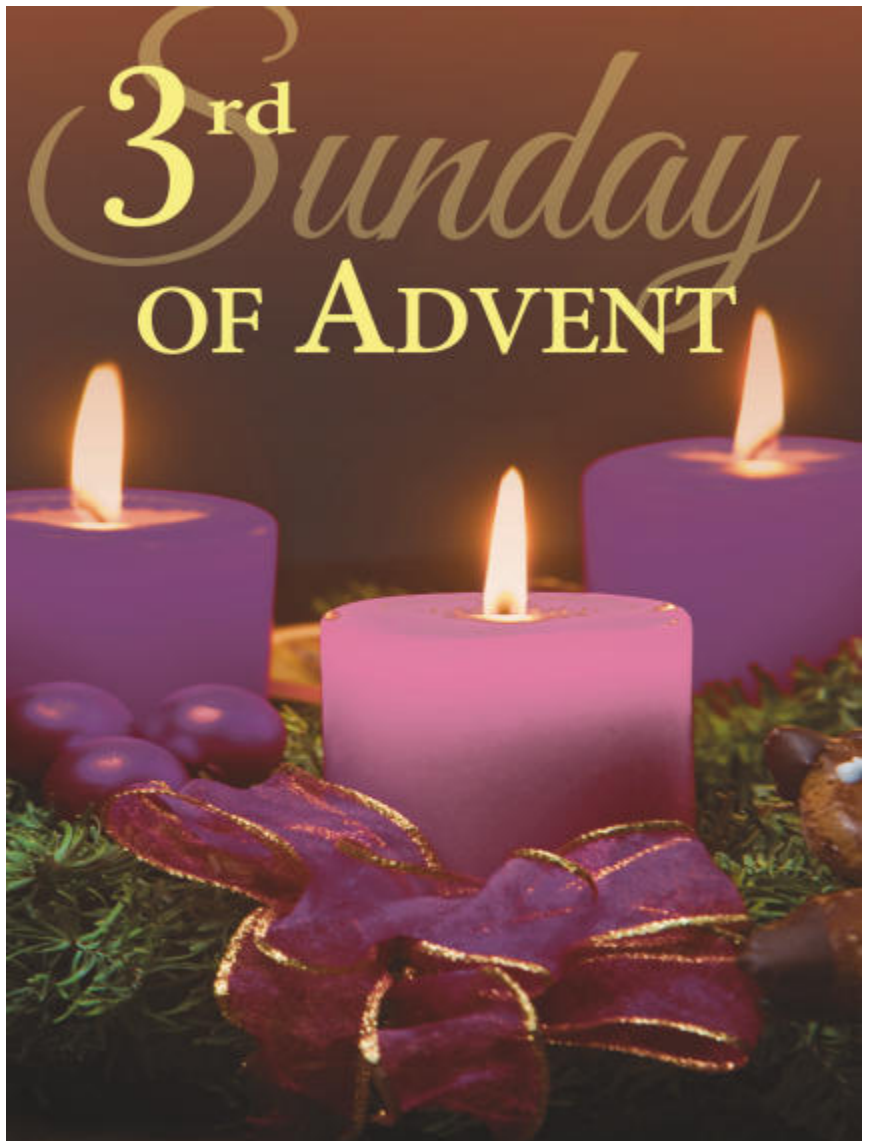
Gluten Free Hosts are available. Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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
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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: John baptized with water, but the Messiah will baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Question for Children: Why is it so important to keep promises which you have made?

Question for Youth: What do you remember from stories about your Baptism? What does your Baptism mean to you now?

Question for Adults: How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24:

4:00 pm Mass

9:30 pm - Musical Program

10:00 pm Mass

Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25

9:00 am Mass



From the Gospel of Luke 3:10-18

To the crowds John the Baptist said, *“Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.”* To the tax collectors, *“Stop collecting more than what is prescribed.”* To the soldiers, *“Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages.”*

What if, as a world, nation, people, we took the message of the gospel of justice to heart? Using our gifts and skills working for the benefit of others as well as for ourselves, would we not be a happier people, filled with the joy, peace, and love that we await?

The Light that is Jesus shatters all darkness, even as we wait. For those who share with others the love of Jesus, Christmas comes early for the giver, as well as the receiver, and remains throughout the year.

There is indeed darkness in this world; so, baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire, we shatter the darkness.

Bob Buckner, Social Justice Commission member



BLOOD DRIVE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10: 1:00 - 7:00 PM

The Pastoral Care and Wellness Commission is again sponsoring a blood drive in the Activities Building. You can make an appointment by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2787) or visit redcrossblood.org and enter St. Paul Park to schedule an appointment. New donors and walk-in donors are always welcome.

WORD AND COMMUNION SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR JANUARY

With Fr. Tony going home to India during the month of January the Word and Communion schedule will change. There will be no Word and Communion the week after Christmas. There will be no Word and Communion on Christmas Eve morning or New Years Eve morning. There will be Mass on Tuesday, January 1 at 9:00 am, a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be no Word and Communion the week after New Years Day. Word and Communion will only be offered on Wednesday and Friday's during the month of January. We will return to our regular schedule in February.



**MEN'S CLUB CALENDAR RAFFLE!
Tickets are on sale thru December 23**

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. The last weekend to purchase tickets is December 22&23. All tickets and money must be turned into the parish office no later than December 26.

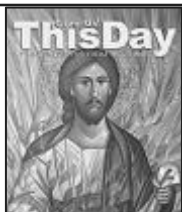
**FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS ARE FOR SALE THIS WEEKEND
DECEMBER 15 & 16**



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.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

Thanks for your donations of cookies for the Dorothy Day meal, the guests will really enjoy your wonderful baking. Thank you for your gifts to Adopt a Family, they will brighten the day on Christmas morning for many children in our community.

If you took one of the tags off the tree in the narthex, those items need to be returned no later than next weekend, December 22/23. They do not need to be wrapped, just make sure the number tag is on the bag. Thank you for those donations as well.

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 |
| Shelley Andrick | | |

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



**3rd Sunday of Advent
Christ has come and
Christ will come again.
We are "in between" waiting
for the Messiah.**



Waiting is a part of our daily experience. In the morning we wait for the news paper. The child waits for the school bus.

On a number of occasions, we wait for celebrities or political leaders. It's very common at marriages to wait for the bride, a person in love, may find pleasure waiting for one's lover, because of the anticipation.

Apart from these daily waiting experiences, there are also events where we wait "in between", the student waiting for results after the exams, a farmer waiting for the harvest after the sowing, or a mother waiting for her child to be born.

In waiting there is a kind of excitement and an enthusiasm, especially when the person is very dear to us. But when the waiting is too long, and if the relationship is not so cordial, then it could lead to frustration. In instances of waiting "in between", apart from the excitement and enthusiasm, there could also be a tremendous amount of doubt, fear, confusion, uncertainty, anxiety, insecurity and even anger, evoking mixed emotions, and feelings.

The Jews of Jesus' time eagerly **awaited the promised Messiah**. At that time, they were under the Roman rulers who imposed heavy taxes on them and scorned them. They wanted a political messiah who would drive out this foreign power and establish them as a Jewish Empire. Various Jewish groups awaited the arrival of the promised Messiah. Among these were the Zealots who sought liberation from the Romans by political revolt, and guerilla warfare. There were the Essenes, a group of Jews, known for their fasting, penance, prayer and study. John the Baptist may have belonged to the Essenes.

He was an austere man. He fasted and prayed. His mission was to prepare the way for the Messiah.

John the Baptist knew Jesus quite well. When still in his mother's womb, he "danced with joy" when he felt the presence of the Messiah. John began his mission by calling people to conversion. "Repent and be baptized" was his clarion call. John heard God's voice attesting Jesus when he came to him to be baptized. He pointed out Jesus to his disciples and, the people around, saying: "*Behold the Lamb, of God, who takes away the sin of the world.*"

On this 3rd Sunday of Advent, John the Baptist calling our attention also to show us the Lamb of God that is Jesus Christ our Savior whom we meet and receive in the Holy Eucharist everyday. Let us follow Christ the Light of our life as we light the Third candle of our Advent wreath this weekend.

Fr. Tony Andrade

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

**PLEASE PICK UP YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS
IN THE NARTHEX NEXT WEEKEND
AND START SELLING!**

GIVING TO GOD

"Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the first fruits of all your increase."
Proverbs 3:9

God doesn't "need" our money to get His work done. He is sovereign and could do it without our help. Yet He has arranged it so that His work often depends on our generosity.

At least two things happen when we give. First, when we give with the right attitude, God reminds us that what we have isn't really ours. He gave us everything we have, and it actually belongs to Him. King David prayed, "All things come from You, and of Your own we have given You" (1 Chron. 29:14). We need to learn that truth.

Second, when we give, we help meet the needs of others whom God also loves. By giving to others we testify to God's love for them, and we point them to the greatest gift of all - God's gift of His Son for our salvation.

Someone has said that our lives should resemble channels, not reservoirs. A reservoir stores water; a channel distributes it. God wants us to be channels of blessing to others. Are you?

From Hope For Each Day, by Billy Graham



**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH
FAITH FORMATION**

- ◆ **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:**

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By _____

**FOREVER CHANGED
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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*.

**HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY?
DO YOU HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER?
ARE YOU USING YOUR CELL PHONE
AS YOUR MAIN 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. 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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Our Advertiser of the week!!

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Charles & Mary McGraw † (C)
- 9:00 am - Red Rock Communion Service
- 9:30 am - Bible Study (AB)
- 11:00 am - Norris Square Mass
- 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 20

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, John & Lorraine Sathra † (C)
- 6:30 pm - Finance Council Mtg. (AB)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Parish Office Closed

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

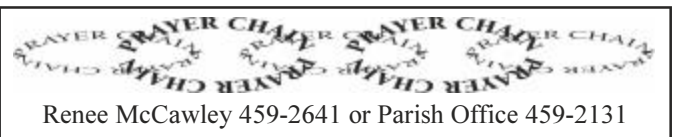
- 1:00 pm - Children's Choir/Pageant Rehearsal (C)
- 2:30 pm - St. Thomas Ensemble (C)
- 4:00 pm - Mass, Paul & Aaron Field † (C)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

- 8:30 am - Mass, Patricia Markey † (C)
- 8:30 am - The Word!
- 9:30 am - No Sunday Faith Formation
- 9:30 am - No Sunday Confirmation
- 10:30 am - Mass, Marcel & Gerard Schmit † (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 16

- Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-8, 17/Mt 1:1-17
- Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-19/Mt 1:18-25
- Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25
- Thursday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-6/Lk 1:26-38
- Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-21/Lk 1:39-45
- Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd/Lk 1:46-56
- Next Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-19/Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45

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