

December 23, 2018 / 4th Sunday of Advent
December 30, 2018 / Feast of the Holy Family



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Catholic Community Welcomes You!



Merry Christmas

May God's peace, joy, and love bless you
and all you hold dear.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Jesus is identified as Lord before he is born.

Question for Children: How does the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow Jesus?

Question for Youth: When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

Question for Adults: What role does Mary play in your own spirituality? If you were Elizabeth, how would you greet her at your doorway, if she were to arrive there?

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed December 24 & 25, for the Christmas Holiday and Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 for New Years!

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

THANK YOU MUSICIANS!

There are many “moving parts” to the music in our Christmas liturgies and we are fortunate at St. Thomas to have amazing musician volunteers who help make our worship beautiful! Special thanks to Ms. Peggy Bartunek who stepped in on the piano and organ this year to give our accompanist, Matt, a Christmas holiday with his family in South Dakota!

At the Children’s Mass, thanks goes to Carol Williams who sings with us each Saturday at the 4pm Mass and to Dick Mullen on guitar. Thanks to our flute player, Kevin Fraley, Chris and Maddie Ripka, on trumpets, the youth bell choir (Emily Kell, Maddie Ripka, Janessa TaBelle, and Alex Phillips), and to our lovely children’s choir!

At the 10pm Mass, thanks go to our wonderful and dedicated St. Thomas Choir. Thanks also to Peggy Doerrie on flute, Peter Swanlund, and Patti Blatz on trumpets, the St. Thomas Bell Choir (joined by Kevin Fraley and Dan Baker), and our narrator, Deb Kinsey.

Thanks to our STA Choir members who come back on Christmas morning to sing and to Kevin Fraley on flute, as well as Peggy Bartunek on piano and organ.

Finally, thank-you to you, the community of St. Thomas Aquinas, who bless me each and every week of the year! Merry Christmas blessings! And Happy New Year, 2019!



Faith, Hope, and Love!

These are gifts we receive and give to one another, not

only at Christmas, but every day of our lives. For some of us, the gifts unwrap with ease. For others, these precious gifts may be impossible to open. When there is violence, war, hunger, and prejudice, the ribbons and bows of our gifts become as chains with hardened locks. Our concern, care, and compassion for others are vital to loosening these chains.

“Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.” Luke 1: 39-40

Mary and Elizabeth were filled with the Holy Spirit. They knew each other’s need and helped each other as they prepared for the birth of their children. May we in our ways be aware of the needs of the family, friend and stranger alike. May we say “Yes” as Mary and Elizabeth did, and become for one another the Spirit of Faith, Hope, and Love that is Christmas.

A Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year to all,
Bob Buckner, Social Justice Commission member.

**OUR STEWARDSHIP LETTER
RETURN YOUR PLEDGE**

Hopefully you have received your Stewardship Letter from the parish. We hope during this beautiful season you will give prayerful thought to how you can help our parish this upcoming year, 2019. Please be sure to return your pledge information to the parish office. You can put it in the regular weekend collection, drop it off or mail it to the parish office. The Finance Council is appreciative of anything you can do to help our financial situation.

DID YOU KNOW WE ARE CELEBRATING!!

2019 we will celebrate the 135th anniversary of the founding of the parish and our church building is 50 years old. We have received word that Archbishop Hebda will be with us on Sunday, October 6, 2019 to help us celebrate. Watch for activities to Celebrate the PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.

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. It also includes the order of Mass, a night prayer, and other seasonal prayers and blessings. If you are interested in this great book, email or call Rosemarie at rwhitehead1@st-thomas-aquinas.com by Jan. 5.

MEN'S CLUB JANUARY MEETING

The Men's Club January meeting will be on Thursday, January 3, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Activities Building. All men in the parish are welcome to join the Men's Club.

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 | Tim Geraghty | |

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

WORD AND COMMUNION

SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR JANUARY

There will be no Word and Communion the week of Christmas or New Years week. There will be Mass on Tuesday, January 1 at 9:00 am, a Holy Day of Obligation. After that 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.



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.


Pastor's Corner
JOY OF CHRISTMAS

After 4 weeks of preparation in the holy season of Advent, on Monday the 25th we joyfully celebrate the birth of our "Lord Jesus Christ", the Savior of the world. We certainly had a wonderful opportunity through the Scripture readings to reflect on this Holy Mystery of "God becoming Man and coming to dwell in our midst". This is an important event of our Human History; therefore, we must "rejoice" on Christmas Day and also share that joy with our brothers and sisters in our families and in our neighborhoods.



As I was going through some of the old parish bulletins, I came across this beautiful poem. I felt it is appropriate to publish it again to remind ourselves that we are pilgrims and we are on a journey. In this process, we meet many people. We certainly learn many things from each other, so we need to have a generous heart to welcome every individual to be part of our worshipping community.

We warmly welcome all who have come today to celebrate this glorious feast. We welcome the stranger, the travelers, and guest! We welcome our student's home from college for a good winter's rest!

We welcome parishioners who moved far away, but join us today as old friends and guests!

We welcome all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith; and hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas to come back again and again!

We welcome our faithful parishioners, loyal and true, may the Lord bless you for all you do!

Welcome to all! May our gathering this day gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds.

We are after all one people of God redeemed by the Light of Jesus.

May we walk by the light and live by the light together in love.

On Tuesday, December 25, Christmas day, I will be leaving for India to visit my beloved family. They are far away which makes my visit to them every year a very happy occasion. My beloved mother, passed away this year in August. I will miss her presence within our family. May she rest in peace in Heaven. Please remember me in your prayers that I may reach home safe and return back home to STA safe. During these 4 weeks of my absence I have arranged priests to come and help on weekends and at other times as needed such as in case of funerals or any emergency. When I am home I will spend 4 days doing my annual retreat with my fellow priests in my home Diocese of Udupi in India.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.

Fr. Tony Andrade

Cadillac Dinner Tickets Available Now!

The 14th Annual Cadillac Dinner will be Sunday, January 27, 2019, at Tinucci's. The menu is Prime Rib or Deep-Fried Shrimp. If you're looking for a Christmas present for a loved one, this is an excellent idea! Tickets are \$120 per couple and are available at the parish office and in the narthex after masses beginning this weekend and every weekend after until January 21. Get your tickets now - we only sell 100 tickets for this event!


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 AND START SELLING!

MARDI GRAS GRANNY'S ATTIC

With the holiday celebrations coming to an end and as you begin your "winter" cleaning, remember our Granny's Attic at Mardi Gras. We will begin accepting your donations on Monday, February 25. You can bring your donations to the Activities Building, Holley Ave. entrance ONLY during regular business hours of the parish. Please no baby items, Fall or Christmas decorations. Please no golf clubs. We love your knick-knacks and treasures. Thank you.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY ONCE AGAIN THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

\$2,600 collected for Friends In Need Thanksgiving Baskets.

\$1,500 collected for our Loaves and Fishes program feeding those homeless at Dorothy Day.

23 dozen cookies, that's over 750 cookies, for our friends at Dorothy Day Center. Thanks to the Joanne Brown family for packaging the 270 bags of those cookies.

Holiday Loaves sold 115 loaves for a total of \$575.00, with proceeds going to the Holiday Train.

50 Children will receive special gifts because of Adopt a Child.

20 Students will have warm coats, boots or gloves at Oltman Middle School.

Many students at Pullman and Newport Elementary School will have warm hats, gloves, and other winter items, thanks to your donations.

WORKSHOP ON "WHAT HAPPENS IF I RUN OUT OF MONEY?"

We are continuing our series to help parishioners following our successful Wills and Trusts workshop. Sat., February 2, at 9:00 am, Jennifer will again return to continue the conversation on "What happens if I run out of money?" and how Medical Assistance works. This workshop is open to all parishioners, retirees, families with elderly parents, or anyone just trying to figure out what is allowed and what is not. There is no cost, but there will be a free will offering. We are asking you to call the office after January 1 to let us know if you are coming.


ST. THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ **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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24 Christmas Eve

Parish Office Closed

- 4:00 pm - Mass, Marion Bajczyk ☩ (C)
- 9:30 pm - Christmas Choir Program (C)
- 10:00 pm - Mass, for the People of St. Thomas (C)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25 Christmas Day

Parish Office Closed

- 9:00 am - Mass, John & Lorraine Sathra ☩ (C)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

- 9:00 am - No Mass
- 9:00 am - Red Rock Communion Service
- 5:00 pm - No Take 5 for Youth! (C)
- 6:30 pm - No FF Session or Confirmation (AB)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

- 9:00 am - No Mass

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

Parish Office Closed

- 9:00 am - No Mass
- 10:00 am - White Pines CS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

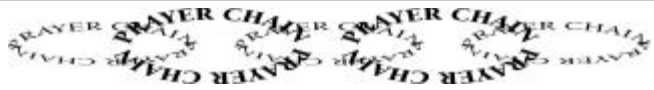
- 2:30 pm - St. Thomas Ensemble (C)
- 4:00 pm - Mass, Sal Schmidt ☩ (C)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30

- 8:30 am - Mass, Betty Dullum ☩ (C)
- 8:30 am - The Word!
- 9:30 am - No Sunday FF or Confirmation
- 10:30 am - Mass, Mekonnen Datou and
Letemieael Fisshu ☩ (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.



Renee McCawley 459-2641 or Parish Office 459-2131

PARISH OFFICE

920 Holley Avenue
St. Paul Park, MN 55071

Phone..... 459-2131

Fax..... 459-8756

Website <http://www.st-thomas-aquinas.com>

Hours

Mon. thru Thurs..... 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Pastor, Father Tony Andrade ext. 105
frandrade@aol.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 Music, Robin Medrud..... ext. 107
rmedrud1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

Director of Liturgy, Rosemarie Whitehead ext. 109
rwhitehead1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

Pastoral Associate, Sue Kainz

Custodian, Bryce Hauck

For information on Baptism, Marriage, or to become a member of St. Thomas Aquinas, please call the parish office.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

KEY (AB) = Activities Building (CB) = Church Basement
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MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 New Year's Eve

Parish Office Closed

9:00 am - No Word & Communion (C)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 New Year's Day

Parish Office Closed

8:30 am - No Rosary (C)

9:00 am - Mass, Negussie Berihun ☩ (C)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2

8:30 am - No Rosary

9:00 am - No Mass

9:00 am - Red Rock Communion Service

11:00 am - Norris Square Communion Service

5:00 pm - No Take 5 for Youth! (C)

6:30 pm - No FF or Confirmation Session (AB)

7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal (C)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

8:30 am - No Rosary

9:00 am - No Mass

7:00 pm - Men's Club Meeting (AB)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Parish Office Closed

8:30 am - No Rosary

9:00 am - No Mass

10:00 am - White Pines Communion Service

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

2:30 pm - St. Thomas Ensemble (C)

4:00 pm - Mass, Gene Fredrick ☩ (C)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

8:30 am - Mass, Ellen Larson ☩ (C)

8:30 am - The Word!

9:30 am - Sunday Faith Formation

9:30 am - Sunday Confirmation

10:30 am - Mass, Clare Broos ☩ (C)

10:30 am - The Word!

DRIVE SLOWLY!

For the safety of those who live in the neighborhood surrounding the parish, please take care to drive slowly when arriving or departing the church parking lots. We create a considerable amount of traffic for the residential community of St. Paul Park and we want to be good neighbors to those with whom we share our beautiful location. Thank you.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 23

Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-16/Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29/Lk 1:67-79

Tuesday: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-6/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18
or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-8ab,
16bc,17 /Mt 10:17-22

Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Friday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-8/Mt 2:13-18

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-6/Lk 2:22-35

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-28/Ps 84:2-10/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/
Lk 2:41-52

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 30

Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96: 1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18

Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-4/Jn 1:19-28

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-6/Jn 1:29-34

Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-9/Jn 1:35-42

Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-5/Jn 1:43-51

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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