



April 7, 2019 / 5th Sunday of Advent

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Catholic Community Welcomes You!

Sign Up Now for the Decluttering Workshop, April 13 at 9:00 am
Pick-up Your Butter Braids Next Weekend, April 13 & 14
Fair Trade Sales Next Weekend

PARISH STAFF

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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.

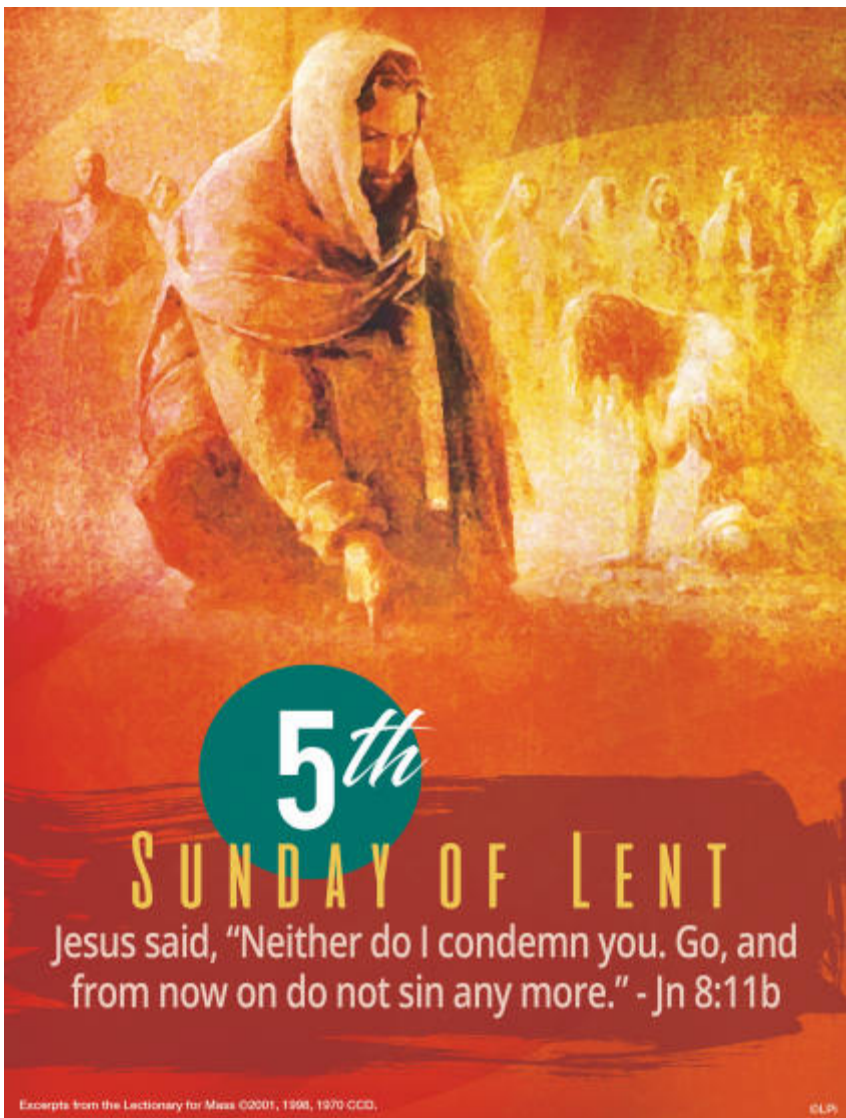
Gluten Free Hosts are available. Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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



5th

SUNDAY OF LENT

Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more." - Jn 8:11b

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

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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: Jesus' love and forgiveness offer true freedom.

Question for Children: How does the Sacrament of Reconciliation help us experience God's forgiveness?

Question for Youth: Who among your family and friends do you need to forgive so that you can heal a broken relationship and experience newness?

Question for Adults: Against whom do you hold prejudices? Who do you believe is a greater sinner than yourself?



One of the 3 ways we are called to prepare our hearts for Easter is through almsgiving. Often this takes the form of writing a check to an organization and we never see the actual person who is helped by our gift.

KIVA is a national non-profit which expands financial access to underserved communities around the world. By lending as little as \$25 you can help change a life. You can even choose exactly whom you want your money to go to and for what kind of help. It might be to pay for a medical procedure, to pay for schooling, to repair a home, or to help start or grow a small business. What's even better is that this money is paid back to you and you can re-loan it to another person needing help.

Did you know that the Social Justice Commission has been making loans to Kiva in the name of our parish since 2007? 101 loans to people in 32 countries have been made. By loaning some of our 2% self-help monies years ago, we have been able to loan & re-loan \$9,250 over these 12 years.

Go to www.kiva.org today and join the hundreds of donors around the world investing in the lives of those who need just a little help to help themselves.

Sue Wege, Social Justice Commission member

HOW TO BEGIN DECLUTTERING!
WORKSHOP - SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 9:00 AM
Don't forget to call the parish office to register!

The Pastoral Care and Wellness Commission is sponsoring this workshop. We will have author Laura Gilbert, author of "The Stories we Leave Behind: A Legacy Based Approach to Dealing with STUFF". Many of us just don't know where to begin cleaning out all of our "stuff". Join us for this workshop to help us start the process. **Register by calling the parish office.** The workshop is free, but we will have a "free will offering".

STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH BENEDICTION



Friday, April 12 at 6:30 pm

BULLETIN ARTICLES FOR APRIL 20/21

All Bulletin articles for the April 20/21 bulletin will need to be into the office no later than 7:00 am on Thursday, April 11.

BUTTER BRAID PICK-UP

If you ordered a Butter Braid, they will be available for pick up April 13 & 14, Palm Sunday Weekend, after all the Masses.

OUR WALL OF TOILET PAPER!

Thank you all for responding so generously to the collection of TP for Friends In Need. Counting will happen on Monday, April 8 and then it will all be delivered to Friends In Need. Thank you, thank you!

SENIOR ART AND GARDEN SHOW


Senior Art and Garden Show featuring local art and a master gardener on Sunday, April 28, 1-3 pm at Cerenity Marian of Saint Paul, 200 Earl Street, St. Paul. Learn more at: 651-793-2100 or cerenityseniorcare.org/events.

THANK YOU!

The family of Janet Waldbillig would like to thank Fr. Tony, Sue Kainz, the beautiful music provided by the choir members and pianist, Mass servers, and others who took part in making Janet's funeral Mass a wonderful celebration of her life. Thank you for all that you did to honor our mom. Thank you also to those who helped prepare and serve the meal. We appreciated your help and kindness. The Waldbillig family

THANK YOU!

The family of Alan Gene Sandkamp express our deep gratitude to Fr. Tony, Sue Kainz, musicians, servers and kitchen staff for your beautiful and comforting services for Al's funeral.



DEATHS OF THE PAST WEEKS
"Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of God's faithful ones."

On **Monday, March 25** we celebrated the life of **John Moser**. John was raised Catholic, and although away from the church for quite a while, had a strong desire to be buried in the Catholic Church and we accommodated his family by welcoming them to celebrate his life at our church. They were very, very grateful. John was an employee of the local refinery for 36 years prior to his retirement. He and his wife Marlene lived in Cottage Grove and between them had eight children. John's son Jay owns Duffy's Station in St. Paul Park. Please keep his whole family in your thoughts and prayers.
May Eternal Light Shine Upon Him

THE LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS
GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19

9:00 am: Church of St. Peter, No. St. Paul
 Noon: Presentation Church, Maplewood
 7:00 pm: Blessed Sacrament, St. Paul

For more information, visit www.servantsofthecrossmn.com.

MANY HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS

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

Bonnie Williamson	Richard O'Ryan	Betty Cronquist
Elaine Kelly	John Burgy	Chuck Cronquist
Danica Hasbrouck	Geri Morse	Bernice Bailey
Lorraine Mischke	Ron Becker	Katie Nielsen
Bernadette Schueller	Carol Lawrence	Mary Baumhover
Missy & Matt Broberg		Patty Clark

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

Pastor's Corner

**5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
WHO IS WITHOUT SIN?**

God is gracious. God who is always ready to show mercy. Mercy is not something deserved. Mercy is given freely, generously, unconditionally. Otherwise, it is not



mercy. When we imitate God by being merciful, we do not act superior to the other. We do not put the other down or act as his benefactor. We do not only give others their freedom but we ourselves are freed of the bondage of hatred, revenge and unforgiveness. We realize that we ourselves are sinners, always in need of God's mercy. But for the grace of God, we could have been far greater sinners ourselves. We receive God's mercy so that we may be channels of his merciful love to others who have wronged us.

In today's Gospel, we have a marvelous story of human misery and divine mercy. Look at the poor woman. Perhaps she was wronged and forced to commit adultery, as many poor girls and women today are taken advantage of by strong or cruel men. Perhaps she fell for someone who made use of her, took advantage of her love and left her high and dry. Perhaps she freely committed adultery, but as a woman she would have to pay the price and be stoned to death, while the man got away scot free either because he had the power, the wealth, the influence or the strength. There is also the misery of the self-righteous accusers of the woman who have stones in their hands, ready to shed her blood. There is no love or compassion in their lives and they are blind to their own sins and their need for God's mercy. Blood lust, self righteousness and hypocrisy have made them miserable children of the evil one.

Jesus is the sinless one. He is neither a lawyer nor a judge who looks at the law and decides how much punishment to inflict on someone who has broken the law. He does not say that the woman is innocent. Nor does he condone adultery. He knows what is in the hearts of the accusers and he asks them to reflect on their own history of sin. If anyone is innocent, let him cast the first stone. They all walk away starting with the eldest. Perhaps they will come to their senses as they realize how much God has forgiven them. Jesus and the woman are left alone. He will soon shed his blood to forgive her sin and all our sins too, on Calvary. His mercy reflects the mercy of Abba Father whom he speaks about as God with outstretched arms, ready to cast our sins behind his back and to embrace us once more as his beloved children. The woman hears the good news from Jesus: "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."

Jesus is saying to you and me today: "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more." Every one of us has a history of sin in our lives. Perhaps we have confessed these sins and received absolution. The precious blood of Jesus has set us free. We never need to go back to confessing these sins again. But now, having received mercy, we are sent to be channels of his forgiving, re-creating love to others. If we have not confessed these sins, let us humbly do so, believing that Jesus is there in confessional to set us free of the burden of the guilt we have been carrying. Let us in turn and forgive all those who have ever offended us.

Fr. Tony Andrade

PRAYER CHAIN

Renee McCawley 459-2641 or Parish Office 459-2131

EASTER ENVIRONMENT



If you are interested in making a donation in memory of a loved one, please cut out and complete this form by **April 21**. 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 _____

FAIR TRADE SALES - APRIL 13 & 14



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.

**14th WEEK CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS!
(drum roll please!) Congratulations!**

- Mar. 30 - \$25 Jeff Dullum, Cottage Grove
- Mar. 31 - \$100 Terry Vanderbeek, Buffalo
- April 1 - \$25 Mike Monahan, Cottage Grove
- April 2 - \$25 Lisa Koenke, Cottage Grove
- April 3 - \$25 Darrell Ruhland, St. Joseph
- April 4 - \$25 Bev Manship, Cottage Grove
- April 5 - \$25 John Granlund, Cottage Grove

**TV MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND
WUCW CHANNEL 23 (CW) AT 9:30 AM**

Is someone you love unable to join us at church during this holy time of Lent and Easter? For those at home or in healthcare settings, the Heart of the Nation Sunday TV Mass brings spiritual comfort and the blessings of joy-filled hope in our Risen Savior. Tune in Catholic Mass on TV or watch online anytime on Sundays at www.HeartoftheNation.org.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS
JULY 2018 TO FEBRUARY 2019**

	Actual	Budget	Difference
Envelopes & Electronic Giving	\$387,862	\$358,667	\$29,195
Plate Offering	<u>\$7,762</u>	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>-\$2,238</u>
Totals	\$395,624	\$368,667	\$26,957

During Stewardship Sunday, it was mentioned that we will resume financial information publishing in the bulletin. Look for it to be a monthly item. The Finance Council

**CELEBRATING 135 YEARS OF ST. THOMAS
AQUINAS: THE HISTORY OF OUR PARISH**

Correction from last weeks' bulletin - The final graduation of the parish school was May 27, 1971.

Father Keller felt that we had every reason to look to the future with optimism and confidence. The planning committee called upon various lay leaders of the parish along with organizational spokesmen to seek recommendations and views on future needs and desires from parishioners themselves. Father Keller wanted the thinking of everyone, young and old, men and women. We were "singularly" blessed with many people who recognized both the spiritual and temporal needs of our parish and community, and were willing to sacrifice to satisfy those needs. The committee that was appointed were to make plans for the future use of the sixteen classroom building. After several months of study and discussion the decision was made by Father Keller and the committee to create an open building policy offering services to parishioners within a minimal budget. The Activities Building would remain open and be one of the local points of parochial life. Religious coordinators were hired and with the help of many lay people a religious education program was developed. Religion would be taught to people ranging from three years old to adult classes. Father Keller pointed out that the activities building, together with the church building should be the center of life for the people of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. The transition from school to community center was one the parish made with a great deal of soul searching. As with any school closing, it left a hole in the heart of many parishioners. As time went on the building became the center for a nursery school, an adult day activities center, a weekly marriage and family counseling service - provided by Catholic Social Services, and a wide range of other community and parish social functions. Since it's somewhat unstable beginnings, St. Thomas Aquinas had matured into a healthy parish of about 1,200 families. It had to change with the times, and continues to do that, as the spiritual, economics and social conditions shifted, but has done so very well over the years. One of the sure signs of a persons' or organizations vitality is its ability to cope with such change and to grow stronger and more diverse in the process. St. Thomas Aquinas has met this challenge and continues to do that today. And as we continue to pray each weekend for all the people who came before us, those who continue to support our parish and those who will come after us to make St. Thomas Aquinas the vibrant parish it is today. More to come next week.....

LEARN ABOUT OUR PATRON, ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

At Cologne, Thomas preferred listening to talking, he rarely spoke. As a result his classmates thought he was a simpleton. However the "dumb ox" was eventually recognized as brilliant. St. Albert, his teacher, predicted that "his voice will be heard throughout the world." It was at Cologne in the year 1251 that Thomas was ordained a priest.

QUOTE OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

"How can we live in harmony? First we need to know we are all madly in love with the same God."

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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

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

MONDAY, APRIL 8

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Lorraine Buda † (C)
- 9:00 am - Red Rock Communion Service
- 9:30 am - Bible Study (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, APRIL 11

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Charles & Mary McGraw † (C)
- 6:30 pm - Finance Council Mtg. (AB)
- 6:30 pm - Yoga (AB)

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Parish Office Closed

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Delphine & Charles Weisbrod † (C)
- 10:00 am - White Pines Communion Service
- 6:30 pm - Stations of the Cross w/Benediction (C)

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

- 9:00 am - Decluttering Workshop (AB)
- 10:00 am - Brass Rehearsal (C)
- 11:00 am - First Communion Preparation (C)
- 2:30 pm - St. Thomas Ensemble (C)
- 4:00 pm - Mass, Gertrude Narusiewicz † (C)
- Butter Braid Pick up
- Fair Trade Sales

SUNDAY, APRIL 14 Palm Sunday

- Fair Trade Sales
- Butter Braid Pick up
- 8:30 am - Mass, Negussie Berihun † (C)
- 8:30 am - The Word!
- 9:30 am - Sunday Faith Formation
- 9:30 am - Sunday Confirmation
- 10:30 am - Mass, Buz Schrantz † (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 APRIL 7

- Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-6/Jn 8:12-20
- Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-21/Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-95/Dn 3:52-56/Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday: n 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-9/Jn 8:51-59
- Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-7/Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10-13/Jn 11:45-56
- Next Sunday: Lk 19:28-40/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-24/Phil 2:6-11/Lk 22:14--23:56 or 23:1-49

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