

May 5, 2019 / 3rd Sunday of Easter



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Catholic Community Welcomes You!

Please Pray For Our

Youth Receiving

First Holy Communion



PARISH STAFF

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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

Howard Alexander

Amaiah Bennett

Quinn Brom

Benjamin Courneya

Madalyn Courneya

Neal Dailey

Logan Elsmore

Andy Joa

Manny Kamara

Olivia LaCroix

Lillian McGuire

Cooper Neumann

Reese Norris

Chloe Omtvedt

Sadie Osland

Parker Pankonin

Sean Phan

Perla Rebollar

Mayra Rendon

Joshua Rogers

Lucas Sardeson

Jacob Thoms

Kayla Tran

Joseph Vanderhoff

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 feeds us so that we can feed and serve others.

Question for Children: Jesus asks Peter three times if Peter loves Jesus. What one thing can you do this week to show Jesus your love?

Question for Youth: Jesus asked Peter three times to “feed my sheep.” Who are you being called to help in your life right now?

Question for Adults: Christ continues to feed us as his disciples, even after his death and resurrection. How does the Eucharist feed your faith?



Even though Pope Francis has said that “good Catholics should meddle in politics,” I think he would understand why so many of us get turned off by the negative tone of what passes for political debate. Ideas are rejected before they can be tested within an honest process of give-and-take. Name calling and labeling do nothing to resolve the staggering problems we face, both nationally and globally. Fr. Richard Rohr OFM claims that, no matter the issue, some people are just full of a “spirit of rejection.” “Oppositional energy”, he says, “doesn’t know what it is for: it just knows what it is against. It is a substitute for vision, yet negative people feed on it.”

Do we let ourselves get caught in the negative energy of those who would only condemn, those who have no dreams for what we can accomplish together? The Book of Proverbs declares: “Without a vision, the people perish.” That’s a frightening thought. Negative oppositional energy destroys the dream of the common good. We, as Christians, are challenged to be the affirming voice that brings fresh and imaginative dreams to the world. Doing this, we can then echo the prophetic Old Testament voice of God: “See, I am doing something new.”

Mary Novak, Social Justice Commission member

BUDA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Buda Scholarship Application forms are now available. You can pick one up in the business office during regular business hours. They are also on the large cabinet in the Narthex. Applications must be returned to the office no later than Thursday, May 30 at 4:30 pm. If you mail, please mail early to be received in the office by May 30.

MOTHER'S DAY COLLECTION

Thank you to Andrea Kullmann, from the Total Life Care Center, for her powerful presentation about the work they do at TLC. Don't forget your articles for the babies. The collection will continue through Mother's Day weekend in the Narthex. If you are making a cash or gift card donation, please make the check payable to St. Thomas Aquinas and we will send one check from the parish. Cash or gift cards can be placed in the envelope that was in the parish bulletin last weekend, or any envelope. Place the envelopes in the regular collection basket over the next several weekends, and thank you so very much.

GERTEN'S PLANTS COMING!

Your Gertens plants are scheduled to be arriving and ready for pick-up the weekend of May 11 and 12. (That's Mother's Day weekend.) Make sure you are available to come and pick up your plants or arrange for someone to pick up your plants if you find you can't be at church that weekend!

The music department and friends netted \$1,446.89, which will go to the general needs of the parish! Thank-you so much for your generosity!! God bless you! Robin

WEDDING



Congratulations to Thomas Phillips and Catherine Welch who were married in our church last week. May God be with them on their journey. Please keep them in your prayers.

Seed Power

*Lord, I do not need faith to move the mountains -
The way you have arranged them is just fine with me.
But grant to my small mustard seed the power of believing all
those things hoped for - which I cannot see.*

**SPRING MEMORIAL MASS
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 6:30 PM**

Our annual Remembrance Mass of all who have died from our families is Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 pm. You may bring pictures of loved ones to place in front of the altar as we remember them. If you would like your loved one or ones spoken aloud during the Mass, please call the parish office with the name(s). This Mass is our special way of beginning the Memorial Day season. Please join us.

DEATHS OF THE PAST WEEK

*“Precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of God’s faithful ones.”*



On **Thursday, April 25**, we celebrated the life of **Morris "Sonny" Skare** who was a relatively new member of our parish and faithfully attended 4:00 or 8:30 mass. He loved our parish and his Catholic faith. Sonny was preceded in death by his wife Gloria. He is survived by his two sisters and two brothers, step children and many nieces and nephews. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

On **Monday, April 29**, we celebrated the long life of **John T. Tazell**. John and his wife Peggy were 60 year members of our parish, raised their four children in the parish and were actively involved in many programs of the parish over those many years. Please keep Peggy, their three daughters, one son, 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren in your thoughts and prayers.

May Eternal Light Shine Upon Them

**MEMORIAL DAY MASS AT THE CEMETERY
MONDAY, MAY 27, 9:30 AM**

Our annual Memorial Day Mass at the Cemetery will be held rain or shine at approximately 9:30 am. Come early to participate in the American Legion salute to all the veterans buried in our cemetery. Come dressed for the weather and bring your own chair. We'd love to see you there.

MANY HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS

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

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Bonnie Williamson | Betty Cronquist | Carol Lawrence |
| Elaine Kelly | John Burgy | Chuck Cronquist |
| Danica Hasbrouck | Geri Morse | Mary Baumhover |
| Lorraine Mischke | Ron Becker | Katie Nielsen |

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

Pastor's Corner

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS

Today St. Thomas Aquinas Parish community rejoices with our 24 First Holy Communicants and I wish them God's blessing as they receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the first time.

They have been preparing for this day as they learned about Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. As I congratulate them I also want to thank our Faith Formation Director, Deone Parnell, her assistants, Joanne Perkins, Annie Scofield and their teachers (catechist) for their dedicated service in teaching our children about the meaning and value of the Holy Sacraments in the Catholic Church.

I also thank the parents of these children for their encouragement and support. As I have said many times in the past it is not enough to celebrate Holy Communion on this Sunday, during the Easter season, and then forget the rest of the Sundays in the year. It is very important that parents make a special effort every weekend to bring their children for Mass, so they are able to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist as often as they can.

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the center of our Catholic Faith, both for the universal church and our own local church. The other sacraments, all the ministries of the church, and the works of the apostolate are united with the Eucharist and are directed towards it.

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior instituted the Holy Eucharist on Holy Thursday before departing from this world to His heavenly Father. He gave the command to his beloved apostles to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in remembrance of Him. Therefore, as often as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist we celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ our Savior who lived among us, died to save us from our sins, rose from the death and opened the gates of heaven to all who believe in Him.

During this Easter season we rejoice with our Risen Lord as we partake in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Holy Mystery of our Faith. Let us receive the bread of life, Jesus Christ, with great faith and encourage our children to do the same.

May God bless our New First Holy Communicants and their families on this special day and always.

Fr. Tony Andrade



FAIR TRADE SALES - MAY 11 & 12

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.

WEDDING INVITATION

We are having a wedding and you are invited! On Saturday, May 18, Sherry Wenning and Dale Smith will be married during the 4:00 pm Mass. People have asked how this can happen. Actually a wedding is a community event and the community supports the bride and groom. The church actually encourages weddings during the regular Mass. Sherry and Dale consider our community part of their family. If you know Sherry and Dale and attend another Mass, please consider attending the 4:00 pm Mass that weekend to support them. Even if you don't know them, come and be a part of this special event. The Mass will not be any longer. A personal invitation from Sherry and Dale will be in the bulletin next week.



UPDATE ON THE CEMETERY

Please excuse our work at the cemetery. It was a long hard winter. Graves from winter burials are being cleaned up, markers are being set, the Men's Club has cleaned up all the winter decorations that have now turned brown. Soon the graves will have new flowers in the pots and all will look special for the summer months. Several reminders - soon the cemetery will be sprayed for weeds and crab grass. There are several Ash Trees that are in good condition and will be treated to keep the Ash borers from getting into the trees. With the late snow the Ash Trees that are full of Ash borers will be cut down later in the season. Flowers, wreaths, and flags are allowed on the ground at graves from Mother's Day weekend through Father's Day weekend. After that, flowers, wreaths, or other items must be in above ground plant stands. We have some very sturdy stands available through the parish office. Please call and order one, staff will place the stand at the grave of your loved one.

FREE!!! CAR WASH

On Sunday, May 19 after the 10:30 am Mass, there will be a car wash in the church parking lot to thank you for supporting our Youth Mission Trip. (Weather permitting)



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ **Confirmation:** Our High School youth are preparing to confirm their Catholic faith at the Cathedral on Sunday, June 2 at 2 pm.
- ◆ **Baptism:** Interested in preparing and planning for the Sacrament of Baptism for children? If you would like more information or would like to help as a mentor, please contact Deone in 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 or 651-459-2131 x 108.

FUNERAL LUNCH POLICY

Changes in our funeral lunch policy are coming. Watch for all the details in the May parish newsletter.

18th WEEK CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS! (drum roll please!) Congratulations!

April 27 - \$25	Cathy Schmitz, Cottage Grove
April 28 - \$100	Deloris Alsidis, Newport
April 29 - \$25	Max Wakefield, Cottage Grove
April 30 - \$250	Ed Revolinsk, Rosemount

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

In July of 1999 Fr. Greg Esty was assigned as our eighth pastor. During his time as pastor the parish leadership developed new ways to communicate and coordinate between ministries, staff, programs, and parish finances. Stewardship and charity were held up as important values of our parish, and continue to this day. A parish feasibility study, entitled "Faithfully Planning our Future" was conducted to evaluate the programs of the parish, the needs and wants, facility changes, and help to develop a Long Range Plan. Core values, a new parish vision statement, an enhanced and updated mission statement were developed by volunteers and staff leaders together with Fr. Greg. Whole parish catechesis became a key component of the planning. Education for all ages - infant to adult. During Fr. Greg's tenure the air conditioning was finally added to the church! For which we are all grateful during the summer months. Our long time Business manager, Linda Bieter, retired in 2007 - with 22 years of service to the parish. In 2009 we celebrated 125 years of the founding of our parish. There were activities each month celebrating the parish. Quilt raffle, cook book, Mardi Gras, 125 Thanksgiving Baskets donated, and fun for all. The celebration culminated in the fall of 2009 with a special Mass including former pastors Fr. Bill Kenney, Fr. Larry Keller, and Fr. John Fitzpatrick, all joining in the celebration. The parish reached a high of over 2000 families during these times. Over the years as we conducted parish census our numbers began declining and unfortunately continue to this day. Fr. Greg served as pastor until 2012.

More next week.....

LEARN ABOUT OUR PATRON, ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

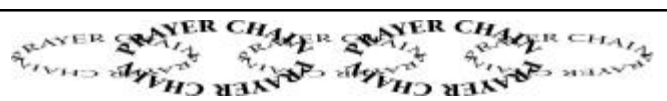
Thomas was ill when in 1274 he was summoned by Pope Gregory IX to attend the General Council at Lyons. The matter at hand was to reunite the Latin and Greek Churches that had been divided since 1054. He became much worse on the journey and was taken to a Cistercian monastery at Fossa Nuova. His soul passed to God on March 7, 1274 when he was about 50 years of age.

"FOREVER CHANGED" SUPPORT PROGRAM

KOK Funeral Home is sponsoring a "Forever Changed" support program for families who have lost a child of any age. Each session will begin with a presentation, then a short break, and time for discussion as a small group. Meetings will be held on the Wednesdays in May, 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the South Washington County Senior Center, 8400 E. Pt. Douglas Rd in Cottage Grove. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the Narthex. To register please call Lara Shea at KOK Funeral Home, 651-459-2483.

- 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!



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, MAY 6

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

TUESDAY, MAY 7

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Word & Communion (C)
- 9:00 am - Red Rock Mass
- 6:00 pm - Pastoral Care & Wellness Com. Offsite

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Abel Alsides ☩ (C)
- 9:30 am - Bible Study (AB)
- 7:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal (C)
- 7:45 pm - FF Commission (AB)

THURSDAY, MAY 9

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Harry & Eleanora Sandkamp ☩ (C)
- 6:00 pm - Facilities Committee Mtg. (AB)

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Parish Office Closed

- 8:30 am - Rosary (C)
- 9:00 am - Mass, Ferdinand & Emma Danzl ☩ (C)
- 10:00 am - White Pines Communion Service

SATURDAY, MAY 11

- 2:30 pm - St. Thomas Ensemble (C)
- 4:00 pm - Mass, Jerome Hebaus ☩ (C)
- 5:00 pm - Gerten's Plant Pick-up (C)
- Fair Trade Sales

SUNDAY, MAY 12 **Mother's Day**

- Fair Trade Sales
- Gerten's Plant Pick-up (C)
- 8:30 am - Mass, Peter Ramirez ☩ (C)
- 8:30 am - The Word!
- 10:30 am - Mass, Buz Schrantz ☩ (C)
- 10:30 am - The Word!
- 10:30 am - Senior Recognition (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.

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 5

- Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-30/Jn 6:22-29
- Tuesday: Acts 7:51--8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-8a, 17, 21ab/Jn 6:30-35
- Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-7a/Jn 6:35-40
- Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-20/Jn 6:44-51
- Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59
- Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116: 12-17/Jn 6:60-69
- Next Sunday: Acts 13:14, 43-52/Ps 100:1-5/Rv 7:9, 14b-17/Jn 10:27-30

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