



December 25, 2020 - The Nativity of the Lord
December 27, 2020 - The Holy Family

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Catholic Community Welcomes You!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

WHEN THE SONG OF THE ANGLES IS STILLED,

When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their sheep;

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS BEGINS:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in our hearts.

By Howard Thurman



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: Families grow through good times and bad.
Question for Children: Why is it important for you to obey your parents or guardians?
Question for Youth: God chose to be among us in the person of Jesus. How does having a God who knows what it means to be human affect the way you pray or think about God?
Question for Adults: Whether single, married, or divorced, how does Paul’s advice ring true in your own life? Choose one of his suggestions and share how it touches your life.

ANNUAL WINTER BLOOD DRIVE

 Our Annual winter Blood Dive will be held on **Thursday, January 7**, from 1pm-6pm. **BLOOD IS DESPERATELY NEEDED!** The Red Cross takes all safety precautions during the drive. Please go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code StThomasAquinas or call 1-800-redcross to make an appointment to donate today!

20s FOR TONY

Reminder that this weekend, December 26th and 27th, is a 20s for Tony weekend! We’ll also have the 20s for Tony baskets available at both Christmas Masses.



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Mary Lou Albu | Gus Briguet |
| Kevin Schmit | John Tipcke |
| Bonnie Williamson | Mark Oszman |
| Joan Deshler | Carol Rumpca |
| Steve and Chris Broberg & Family | |

We know there are many parishioners who are suffering from COVID19 or are in quarantine. (None contracted the virus at church) We also remember many family members of parishioners and the thousands of people around the world who suffer from COVID19 as well. Please also remember the many members of our parish who are in nursing homes, assisted living, or homebound.

CHRISTMAS THANKS

This Christmas at St. Thomas has been unlike any other we have had. The pandemic, as you know, has especially impacted the music. Nevertheless, we have continued to make music in the ways available to us! So, I want to start by thanking Matt Hinds who is so much more than our accompanist on piano and organ! Throughout the fall season he has assisted in myriad ways with the technology needed to do our online Masses. The choirs have been able to meet several times on Zoom which Matt hosted. Also, throughout the fall, our wonderful choir and Celebration members have come forward, one by one, to record for a “virtual choir” for Christmas. I thank them for lending their voices...and the opportunity for myself and the parish to see and hear them! (Matt recorded...I was his assistant!)

Until recently, three choir members joined me each weekend to sing and I am so grateful to each one of them! When the “surge” of coronavirus cases was swelling in our area and state, I decided (guided by the Archdiocese) that it was becoming too risky to have two singers, unmasked, together at each Mass. At that point, I asked Kathy Rustin and Tracey Fredrick if they would be willing to cantor at a Mass each weekend. That is our current status. Again, I am very grateful for their service!

Our wonderful bell choir was hard at work all fall rehearsing music to be recorded for Christmas. That was cut short however by a couple of members being exposed to the virus. I thank them for their willingness to come in...perhaps we will be able to resume in the spring?? We just have to wait and see!

Lastly, I thank the community of St. Thomas Aquinas. In my mind, I see you and hear you as I sing and look forward to the day that everyone feels safe gathering together again.

Merry Christmas to all...and a very blessed 2021!
Robin

FAIR TRADE

Thank you to all who purchased Fair Trade items, we hope you enjoy them. Fair Trade will be back in early spring, watch the bulletin for updates.

REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING DEATHS OF THESE PAST WEEKS.

During this pandemic time it is so difficult for families to celebrate the lives of their loved ones who have died. We will remember them here:

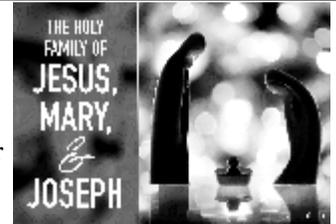
Michael Wright, age 54, son of Gloria Wright. Mike grew up in Newport and was part of our parish. He worked for the City of Inver Grove Heights, and continued to live in Newport. Please keep his family in your thoughts and prayers.

 **Marcie Jilk**, age 89, was a very long time and active member of our parish. Most recently you could see her most weekends as one of our greeters, that is before the pandemic. She was preceded in death by her husband Ron, and will be buried in our parish cemetery in the spring. Please keep her four children, their spouses and her many grandchildren and great-grand children in your thoughts and prayers.

Rose (Perkins) Faulman, age 59, mom to Jay and Joe, daughter of Audrey Perkins and sister of Barb, Tom, Theresa, Denise and Julie. Rose grew up in St. Paul Park and our parish. Rose will be buried in our parish cemetery with many other members of the Perkins Family. Please keep her sons, her mom Audrey and her other family members in your thoughts and prayers.



Deacon's Corner



This Sunday we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. How clearly, they reflect “an intimate community of life and love” that is mentioned in the Vatican II document:

Gaudium et spes no. 48. The love that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph had for each other is seen in their unique roles. Joseph was obedient to the Lord when he took Mary as his wife and when they fled into Egypt. Mary was willing to risk her very life and earthly happiness when she gave her consent to bear Jesus saying to the angel Gabriel, “be it done unto me according to your word”.

And St. Luke tells us that after Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the temple they went back to Nazareth and he was obedient to them. All three were willing to give up their own plans and humbly submit to the will of God and to each other.

In another Church document, the beautiful Apostolic Exhortation by St. John Paul II, The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World we see how “The family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love”. Christian couples in their mutual self-giving reflect the love of Jesus who continually gives of himself to the Church. The Christian family is the domestic church. What happens at the table at Church should happen at the table at home. There is a pervasive atmosphere of love, communion, and respect. The Christian family is the first community called to announce the gospel and parents are recognized as the primary educators and catechists for their children.

Family communion is fostered through a willingness to sacrifice. The family is where we express forgiveness and reconciliation. It is important to emphasize the equal dignity and responsibility of women with men. The place and task of the mother and the father, in and for the family is of unique and irreplaceable significance. The mother’s role is of such immense importance that the Lord elevated his mother to be revered, honored, and blessed throughout eternity. The presence of St. Joseph as father in the earthly life of Jesus is a great example for all men to take on the attributes of silent service, humility, respect, and obedience. The actions of a father speak louder than words. Secular research has shown how the absence of a father has a significant impact on children’s well being and sense of security. Sigmund Freud the father of modern psychology even said that the greatest influence on someone’s life is their relationship with their father. And we see this in Jesus’ relationship both with St. Joseph his earthly father and his Father in Heaven. And Jesus put the child at the heart of the Kingdom of God saying, “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven” (MT 19:14).

We can see that marriage and family is the beginning and the basis of all human society. The family, and the Church, are a reflection of the Trinity. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the communion of life and love par excellence. And we all are invited to be a part of this family. The great family of God. This is where we belong. Where we can love and be loved.

Where we live out our Christian lives with heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, seeking to live in peace and joy.

Merry Christmas

Deacon Joe

 **CHRISTMAS ENVIRONMENT** 

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please cut out and complete and return this **ASAP**. 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 needs.

Donation enclosed in memory of:

PLEASE PRINT

By _____

REMINDER ABOUT 2020 TAX DONATIONS
Reminder that money needs to be received in the office by December 30, 2020 to be counted for 2020 tax purposes.

DRIVE BY OUR NATIVITY
With all the “drive by events” all over the state, we want to offer you one of our own. Come by the church on Christmas Eve: 5:00pm - 8:00pm, Christmas Day: 5:00pm - 8:00pm, Saturday, December 26th: 5:00pm - 8:00pm and finally Sunday, December 27th: 5:00pm - 8:00pm. We invite you to enter the church parking lot on 9th Ave - near the rectory building, drive up and check out the decorations and Nativity and tune to 104.3 FM to hear music from the parish choir and bell choir. You will not be able to enter the church and you must stay in your vehicle. Thank you.



JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Per the Archdiocese guidelines we continue to encourage you NOT to participate in singing while at Mass. We ask you sing in your heart, not with your voice. Thank you.



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS YOUTH - FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation has officially started!!!

If you would like to participate in our virtual Faith Formation program it is not too late!

Please email Amy Stein at astein1@st-thomas-aquinas.com or call the office at 651-459-2131.

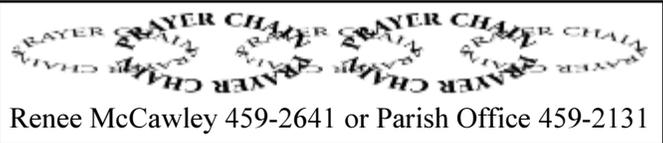


DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT INFORMATION?

Be sure to keep us informed of any of changes to your address or phone number by calling the parish office at 651-459-2131 or by e-mailing Tina at tfox1@st-thomas-aquinas.com. Thank you!

E-BLAST EMAILS

Did your Eblast email suddenly stop coming to your inbox? Sometimes they end up filed into Junk randomly. Please make sure to check your junk inbox and/or add our email address to your list of 'safe' addresses. We would hate for you to miss any news and information.



Renee McCawley 459-2641 or Parish Office 459-2131

PARISH STAFF

Pastor:

Father Tony Andrade.....ext. 105
tandrade1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

Deacon:

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Safe Environment Coordinator:

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Director of Bldg & Grounds:

Bryce Hauckext.106
bhauck1@st-thomas-aquinas.com



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

KEY: (C)= Church

Please remember: Daily Mass is cancelled when a funeral is scheduled

MONDAY, December 28

TUESDAY, December 29

WEDNESDAY, December 30

8:30 am - Rosary (C)

9:00 am - Mass (C)

Sandy Einberger †

THURSDAY, December 31 - New Year's Eve

8:30 am - Rosary (C)

9:00 am - Mass (C)

Joan Tennis †

FRIDAY, January 1 - New Year's Day

Parish Office Closed

8:30 am - Rosary (C)

9:00 am - Mass (C)

Joan & Lee Kirsh †

SATURDAY, January 2 - Epiphany of the Lord

4:00 pm - Mass (C)

Marilyn Mickelson †

SUNDAY, January 3 - Epiphany of the Lord

8:30 am - Mass (C)

In Honor of John A Tazuell

10:30 am - Mass VIRTUAL via Facebook

Norman & Shirley Smith †

PARISH OFFICE

920 Holley Avenue
St. Paul Park, MN 55071
Phone: 651-459-2131
Fax: 651 459-8756
www.st-thomas-aquinas.com



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8:30am - 4:30pm,
Closed 12:00pm - 1:00pm

Mass Times

Wed, Thurs & Fri: 9:00 am

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am

10:30 am VIRTUAL via Facebook

Have questions about the **Sacrament of Baptism**, the **Sacrament of Marriage** or **New Member Registration**? Call the Parish Office for information. **Gluten Free Hosts** are available. Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

Readings

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-8/Mt 2:13-18
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-6/Lk 2:22-35
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-10/Lk 2:36-40
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-13/Jn 1:1-18
Friday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-8/Gal 4:4-7/
Lk 2:16-21
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1-4/Jn 1:19-28
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12

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