

January 17, 2021
2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Catholic Community Welcomes You!

Retirement Fund for Religious
Lent Black Books



*Miles apart but under
the same stars*

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Theme: God calls us to follow Christ.

Question for Children: What can you do this week to show that you are a follower of Jesus?

Question for Youth: Andrew seemed to know immediately that he should follow Jesus. Do you have that same sense of confidence in your faith in Jesus? What helps? What makes it hard?

Question for Adults: In what ways do you experience being called by Jesus? What does he want you to do?

THE STARS!

Many have asked about the stars in the narthex. They have been brought back from India over the years as Fr. Tony has returned from his trip home. They have been in various places in the narthex as part of our Christmas decorating. Last year the environment committee figured out a way to hang them under the sky light in the narthex. This year we were finally able to get the area lighted and they are so much brighter. We hope you enjoy a "little taste of India" this season. We are leaving them up until the end of January for Fr. Tony to remind him of his home and family. And of course for all of us to enjoy during this dark time of year.

BLACK LENT BOOKS

Lent is a month away! Ash Wednesday is February 17th. It seems early but beginning next weekend at Masses and in the parish office the Little Black Books for Lent will be sold for \$1.00 each. Pick one up early, supplies will be limited.



PARISH STAFF

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Bryce Hauck
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PRAYER REQUESTS



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

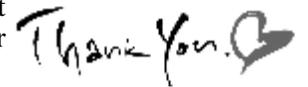
- Mary Lou Albu, Kevin Schmit, Bonnie Williamson, Joan Deshler, David Mattingly, Harlan Kahl, Gus Briguet, Janet Nordman, Amy Vanderhoff, Scott Williams, Jim Weir, Tim McDaniels

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.

ANNUAL WINTER BLOOD DRIVE

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Thanks to all who donated blood at our winter blood drive. There were 34 units of blood donated that in the end will help 77 people. This was one our most successful drives in recent memory. Watch for details of our August drive.



2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



TIME IS RUNNING OUT!! MEN'S CLUB CALENDAR RAFFLE TICKETS \$20.00 EACH

The Men's Club Calendar Raffle Tickets are still for sale before Masses and in the Parish office during regular hours.



If you have checked out tickets to sell, they must be turned in by this FRIDAY, JANUARY 22 by 4:00pm or you may turn them in at Mass on January 23 and 24. The drawing will be Monday January 25 at 10:00am.

 **Pastor's Corner**

GOD'S CALL

The predominant theme of today's readings is the call of God. In the first reading God calls Samuel to be His Prophet, and in the Gospel Jesus calls his first disciples. Samuel after hearing God's call goes to Eli saying: "Here I am, you called me." Eli exhorts him to listen to God's Voice and turn towards Him. In the Gospel John the Baptist, after fulfilling his mission, points out to the one greater than him as Jesus passed by; "Behold the Lamb of God."

Here two points are to be noted:

- God calls man through man to reveal His will.
- God wants us to be His instruments to lead us to God and to make His Kingdom tangible; the Kingdom of Love and service, Justice and peace

Man on the Quest

We are all perpetually on the quest: Some are in search of money to meet the needs of life; some look for security and position that is safe to ensure a peaceful life; some others in search of name and fame. All these need not necessarily be wrong aims. They become bad only if they are motivated by personal ambition and selfishness. If they are directed by motives of love and service one's fellowmen they will result in peace and be conducive to lead us to God.

As we read in today's Gospel, John's disciples were also in search of something. And Jesus asks them, "What do you seek?" The reply was: "Rabbi (means literally: Teacher) Where do you stay?" And at Jesus' words "come and see", they accepted his invitation and followed him. Once they accepted Jesus' invitation they never left him. Here we have an example of true discipleship: Coming to Jesus, seeing Jesus and following Jesus.

Every weekend we come together to meet Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. We obey his call. What is the result of our encounter with him? Do we learn more about him and decide to spend our time with him? Do we really find joy in meeting him? Or do we simply come together and go away empty-handed? Jesus calls us today, he invites us to follow him and encounter him in the Word and the Sacrament. Are we attentive to his call and respond like Samuel: "Speak Lord, your servant is listening"

Fr. Tony Andrade



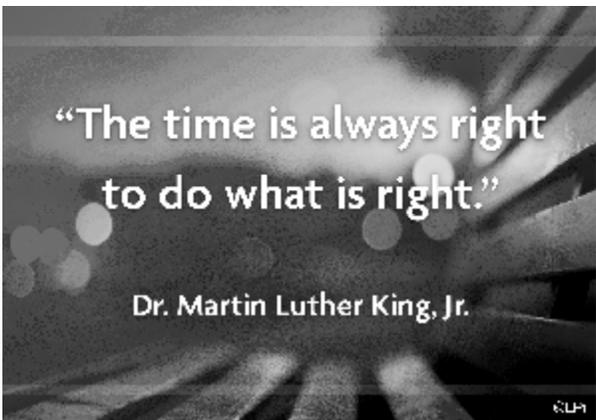
JUST A REMINDER

With the Covid-19 pandemic seeming to be spreading more and more, we ask you to please be careful as you venture out of your homes. Please continue to wear your masks and wash your hands. We thank you for faithfully wearing your masks to Mass when you come and social distancing in the church.



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!



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS
 You might recall at this time of year we typically have had a presentation by a member of a religious community. In past years Rosemarie Whitehead talked about her years as a teacher and sister. You have responded so generously to her requests. Next weekend, January 23/24 you will find a special envelope and flyer in the bulletin for your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Due to the pandemic we are keeping it very simple this year, no speaker. Many of us remember our grade school years and the nuns, brothers or priests that taught us. Most of those sisters, brothers and priests are no longer with us or are years into retirement. Many of them received little or no pay during those years of teaching. This retirement fund helps with the retirement and care costs of retired sisters, brothers and religious order priests. We ask you to simply use the special envelope for your donation and place it in the donation basket at church, drop it off at the office or mail it to the office. Thank you.

JUST A FRIENDLY REMINDER

Per the Archdiocese guidelines we continue to encourage you NOT to participate in singing while at Mass. Even though you are wearing a mask, research suggests that singing releases large droplets that can transmit significant portions of the COVID virus. We ask you sing in your heart, not with your voice. Thank you for your understanding.



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SPREAD THE WORD

As many of you are aware, Natural Science Academy is no longer leasing from St. Thomas Aquinas. If you know of an organization looking for space—please contact Amy in the office at 651-459-2131.



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.

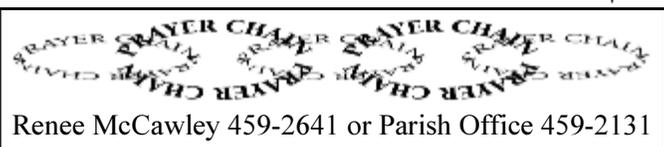


DO YOU NEED HELP?

Friends In Need can help with food. Call on Mondays from noon - 3:00pm or Tuesday mornings after 7:30am at 651-458-0730 to make an appointment to pick up a pre-packed box of food for your family.

VICTIM ASSISTANCE HOTLINE

The Archdiocese offers a 24-hour Victim Assistance Hotline at 651-291-4497



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

KEY: (C)= Church (AB) Activities Bldg

MONDAY, January 18 - Martin Luther King Day

Parish Office CLOSED

TUESDAY, January 19

WEDNESDAY, January 20

8:30 am - Rosary (C)

9:00 am - Mass (C)

Miriam R Espinosa †

Jamie L Hanson †

THURSDAY, January 21

8:30 am - Rosary (C)

4:00 pm - Mass (C)

John & Lorraine Sathra †

6:00 pm - Finance Council (AB)

FRIDAY, January 22

8:30 am - Rosary (C)

8:30 am - Mass (C)

Rose Perkins †

SATURDAY, January 23

4:00 pm - Mass (C)

Herb & Lorryne Schoenecker †

SUNDAY, January 24

8:30 am - Mass (C)

Zachary Hunter †

10:30 am - Mass VIRTUAL via Facebook

Buz Schrantz †

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.

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 only

READINGS OF THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-10c/Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-17/Mk 3:7-12
Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8-14/Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-9/Mk 3:20-21
Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-9/1 Cor 7:29-31/
Mk 1:14-2

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