January 24, 2021
3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Catholic Community Welcomes You!

Little Black Books for Lent
Blood Drive April 29th
Prayer Ministry

Parish Staff

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Parish Office

920 Holley Avenue
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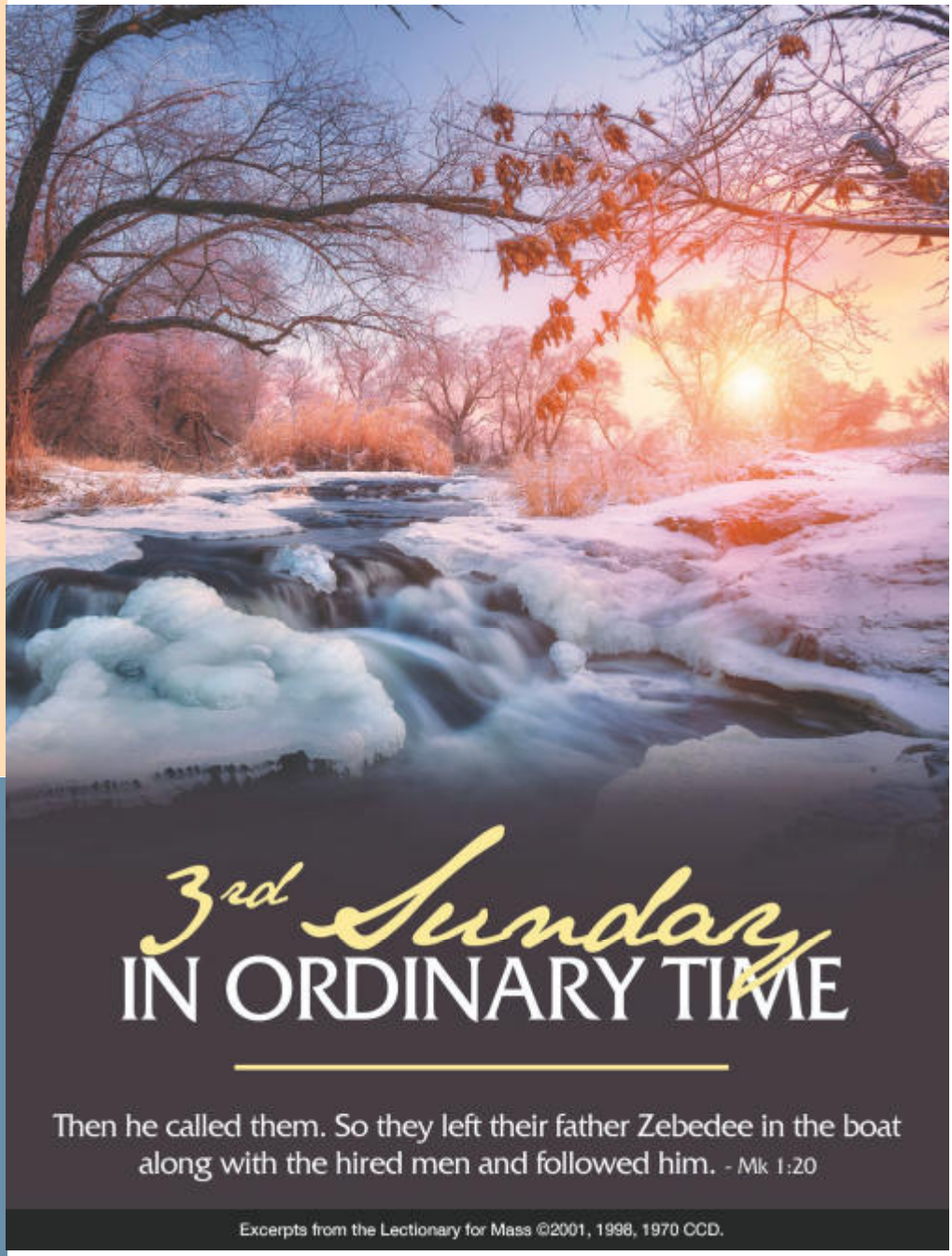
Phone: 651-459-2131
Fax: 651 459-8756
www.st-thomas-aquinas.com

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



Questions Of The Week

Theme: We are called.
Question for Children: What do you think it was like for the people in today's Gospel to be called by Jesus? What did they have to give up in order to follow him?
Question for Youth: At the start of Jesus' ministry, Jesus invites people to "believe in the Good News." What are some ways that you could be more open to the truth and challenge contained within the Gospels?
Question for Adults: If someone asked you, "To what work has Jesus called you?" how would you answer?

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

Mary Lou Albu	Gus Briguet
Kevin Schmit	Janet Nordman
Bonnie Williamson	Jason Dunn
Raymond Rumpca	Scott Williams
David Mattingly	Meridean Schmidt
Harlan Kahl	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.

Sick List Guidelines

Please note the update to our Sick/Prayer List guidelines:

- Parishioners can be put on Prayers during the Mass, in the bulletin, on EBlast and the prayer chain. They can choose one or all. We will keep these parishioners on the list for **4 weeks**, and then it will be up to the family to call and request additional time on the lists.
- Family members and friends will be put in the bulletin, EBlast and the prayer chain. They will NOT be announced publicly during Mass. They will also be on the list for 4 weeks only.

Thank you for your understanding.

Little Black Books For Lent

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Watch for the complete details on our Lenten plans in the bulletin and EBlast in the coming weeks. We will begin selling our Little Black Books for Lent at Masses and the parish office this week. Cost is $1.00. Please bring correct cash amount. The books will be available until they are gone.

Retirement Fund For Religious

Please see the flyer and envelope for your use in the bulletin this weekend. Please be generous.

The Stars!

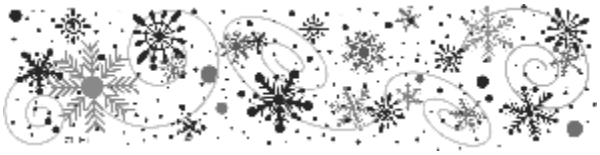
Many have asked about the stars in the narthex. They have been brought back from India over the years as Fr. Tony has returned from his trip home. They have been in various places in the narthex as part of our Christmas decorating. Last year the environment committee figured out a way to hang them under 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.

20s For Tony

Reminder that next weekend - January 30th and 31st is a 20s for Tony weekend!

Blood Drive - Thursday, April 29th

Due to the great need for blood we have been asked to sponsor another blood drive. Look for complete details on making appointments in next weeks bulletin. Thanks to the 34 people who gave blood and saved lives at our January blood drive.



The Ministry Of Prayer

Most of you are aware that STA has a prayer chain ministry. The prayer chain is made of four groups of people who commit themselves to prayer for the needs of our parishioners as well as requests from far and wide. Would you like to be part of this wonderful ministry? If so, please contact Robin at 651-459-2131, ext 107. Or email rmedrud1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

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.

Deacon's Corner

Ordinary Time – Not So Ordinary!

The Christmas season has ended and we are now into the third week of Ordinary time. Why is this time of the Church year called Ordinary? This is a good example of how translating from one language to another can be confusing. The term ordinary to us in America typically means something that's not special or significant. So many people think that Ordinary Time refers to parts of the Church year that are not as important as the other seasons of the Church year. However Ordinary Time makes up 33 or 34 (depending on the year) of the 52 weeks in the year.

We call this Ordinary Time not because it is unimportant but because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word ordinalis, simply refers to numbers in a series like 1, 2, 3, 4. It has as its root the Latin word ordo, which is also the root word for order. Most Catholic Churches have in the Sacristy a small book called the Ordo. In this book you can look up the date and it explains the readings for that day, the color of the vestments and other details for liturgical celebrations.

So, the numbered weeks of Ordinary Time represent the ordered life of the Church—the time when we live our lives neither in celebration and feasting like Christmas and Easter or in more somber times of fasting and penance like Advent and Lent. This first period of Ordinary Time which we are in now goes until Ash Wednesday and then Lent begins. The second period of Ordinary Time begins the day after Pentecost Sunday and goes until the first Sunday of Advent when the Church year starts all over again.

Ordinary Time is far from unimportant or uninteresting. It is actually "Extraordinary". This is the time of year when Christ, the Son of God, walks among us transforming the daily lives of those who are open to his message. The liturgical color and vestments are green representing a time to grow just like the grass and trees turn green in the springtime. As we hear in the Gospel Christ is calling the disciples to follow him and listen to his words, so we are called to order our lives around our faith, and the call and words of Christ.

Deacon Joe

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!

Ash Wednesday Mass Reservation

At Masses the weekend of January 30th & 31st and the weekend of February 6th & 7th, we will be taking names of parishioners who want to attend the **Ash Wednesday Masses at either 9:00am or 6:30pm on February 17th**. Similar to what we did for Christmas Masses. Starting Feb 8 you must call the office to make your reservation. Our limit is 200 people per Mass.

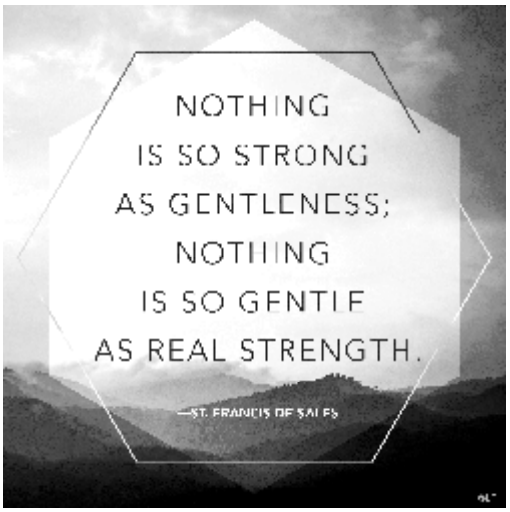
Just A Reminder

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.

Greetings From Robin

Hello St. Thomas Aquinas! I wanted to write a quick follow-up to the short update I gave at the Sunday livestream Mass. As I said, with the uptick in COVID cases the last few months, I felt it was safer to have only one cantor singing at a Mass. (The larger amount of particles expelled while singing plus the force of the breath while singing makes it too risky). I will be watching the number of daily cases each day with the hope of seeing them drop steadily over the next weeks. When I see that, I will start bringing back other singers. To the choir members, please know I miss bringing you on board to sing at this time and look forward to having you back! And to the folks who watch on the livestream, please know that I appreciate your concern and your asking about my absence! I miss our congregation being together and pray for the day people will feel safe being together in prayer again.

Robin



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

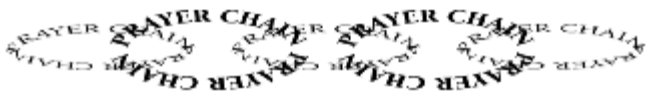
Did your Eblast email suddenly stop coming to your inbox? Sometimes they end up filed into Junk randomly. Please make sure to check your junk inbox and/or add our email address to your list of 'safe' addresses. We would hate for you to miss any news and information.

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



Renee McCawley 459-2641 or Parish Office 459-2131

This Week at a Glance

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

MONDAY, January 25
TUESDAY, January 26
WEDNESDAY, January 27
8:30 am - Rosary (C)
9:00 am - Mass (C)
Dolores M Lange ✞
THURSDAY, January 28
8:30 am - Rosary (C)
4:00 pm - Mass (C)
Sharon Freund ✞
FRIDAY, January 29
8:30 am - Rosary (C)
8:30 am - Mass (C)
Marceline (Marcy) Jilk ✞
SATURDAY, January 30
4:00 pm - Mass (C)
James Lence ✞
SUNDAY, January 31
8:30 am - Mass (C)
Ron Becker ✞
10:30 am - Mass VIRTUAL via Facebook
Daniel & Wilma Goodnature ✞

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 OF THE WEEK

Monday:	Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 / Mk 16:15-18
Tuesday:	2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-10/ Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday:	Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1-4/Mk 4:1-20
Thursday:	Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-6/Mk 4:21-25
Friday:	Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40/ Mk 4:26-34
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-75/Mk 4:35-41
Next Sunday:	Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/1 Cor 7:32-35/ Mk 1:21-2

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