



December 25, 2021 - Nativity of the Lord  
December 26, 2021 - The Holy Family  
January 2, 2022 - Epiphany of the Lord

# St. Thomas Aquinas

Catholic Community Welcomes You!



**What's Going On In The Narthex This Weekend:  
A Quick Guide**

Refugee Collection - we are collecting all sorts of items a family might need - bedding, socks, mittens, hats. We will collect through January. Thank you to all who have been so generous.

Fair Trade Sales - Fair Trade will return on January 8th and 9th. Stop by and pick up a treat for the new year!



Calendar Raffle - Sales will continue through January 23rd. Make sure to pick up your chance to win!

Cookies for Dorothy Day - Thanks to all who donated the wonderful cookies. Thanks also to Ava Stein and her National Honor Society friends who bagged up all the cookies.



**Blood Drive - Friday, January 7th - 1pm to 6pm  
Make Your Appointment TODAY!!**

Call 1-800-redcross or go on-line at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), then enter sponsor code StThomasAquinas. Blood supplies are desperately low. If you can give blood, please do! Make your appointment NOW.

**FAITH FORMATION CORNER**



Rejoice and sing Alleluia, our Lord and Savior is born!

God Bless Everyone,  
May you all have a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of our Savior. In person classes are supposed to resume on January 5. I am changing this to a Volunteer/Teacher meeting night. We will resume classes again on Wednesday, January 12, 2022. Remember all the accomplishments you have made through these crazy times.

Bless, Bless  
LeAnn

**\*\*\*VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED\*\*\***

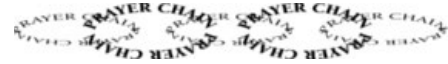
Do you want to be a part of this great year? Have a special gift you want to share? With all the ups and downs that are part of the new normal, we are in need of help. Even if you can only help for one week a month. Contact LeAnn for more information at [ldalbec1@st-thomas-aquinas.com](mailto:ldalbec1@st-thomas-aquinas.com) or call 651-459-2131 ext. 108.



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

- |                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Bonnie Williamson  | Millie Schmit    |
| Janet Nordman      | Tom Budziszewski |
| Francisco Gonzalez | Jack Flaherty    |
| Toni Beard         | Gerald Hempler   |
| Helen Engelking    | Mike Bestler     |
| Audrey Perkins     | Theresa Clark    |
| Patty Clark        | Judy Crockett    |
| Don Kulesa         | Steve Crockett   |
| Jim Hintz          |                  |

We remember the many people around the world who continue to suffer from the COVID virus. Please also remember the many members of our parish who are in nursing homes, assisted living, or homebound.



Renee McCawley 459-2641 or Parish Office 459-2131

**Honoring & Remembering**

On **Monday, December 13th Warren & Doris Opp**, former long time parishioners were buried at Newport Cemetery, near their son David, with a committal service after their Memorial Service in St. Cloud. Please keep their four children, spouses and grandchildren and great grandchildren in your thoughts and prayers.



On **Wednesday, December 15th** we celebrated the long life of **Marilyn Hastings**, 96, one of our oldest parishioners with a memorial service at KOK Funeral Home. Marilyn and her husband Bill lived their whole married life on Grey Cloud Island. She will be buried in the spring at the Grey Cloud Cemetery. Please keep her three children in your thoughts and prayers.



On **Wednesday, December 22nd** we celebrated the life of **Deborah Mason**. Deborah is the daughter of parishioner Jinny Jablonski. She is survived by her four children; five grandchildren; and many other loving family and friends. Please keep Deborah's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.



## PASTOR'S CORNER

### Joy of Christmas



After 4 weeks of preparation in the holy season of Advent, on Saturday, December, 25th we joyfully celebrate the birth of our "Lord Jesus Christ", the Savior of the world. We certainly had a wonderful opportunity through the Scripture readings to reflect on this Holy Mystery "God becoming Man and coming to dwell in our midst". This is an important event of our Human History; therefore, we must "rejoice" on Christmas day and also share that joy with our brothers and sisters in our families and in our neighborhood. As I was going through some of the old parish bulletins, I came across this beautiful poem. I felt it is appropriate to publish it again to remind ourselves that we are pilgrims and we are on a journey. In this process, we meet many people. We certainly learn many things from each other, so we need to have a generous heart to welcome every individual to be part of our worshipping community.

*We warmly welcome all who have come today to celebrate this glorious feast. We welcome the stranger, the travelers and guest!*

*We welcome our student's home from college for a good winter's rest!*

*We welcome parishioners who moved far away but join us today as old friends and guests!*

*We welcome all who have not been active of late in their Catholic faith; and hope they will find new hope and inspiration this Christmas to come back again and again!*

*We welcome our faithful parishioners, loyal and true, may the Lord bless you for all you do!*

*Welcome to all! May our gathering this day gladden our hearts and deepen our bonds.*

*We are after all one people of God redeemed by the Light of Jesus.*

*May we walk by the light and live by the light together in love.*

On Saturday December 25th, Christmas day, I will be leaving to India to visit my beloved family and will return to our parish on Monday February 14, 2022. Please remember me in your prayers that I may reach home safe and return back home to my STA parish family safe. During these 7 weeks of my absence I have arranged priests to come and help on weekends and at other times as needed such as in case of funerals or any emergency. When I am home I will spend 6 days doing my annual retreat with my fellow priests in my home Diocese of Udipi in India.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.

Fr. Tony Andrade

### Fr. Tony's Vacation...

As you read in Fr. Tony's column this weekend Fr. Tony will be leaving to go visit his family on Christmas Day after Mass. We wish him a relaxing and good vacation. During his absence we have arranged to have two retired priests help us on the weekends. Fr. Bob Fitzpatrick will be with us for the Saturday Masses and Fr. Pat Casey will be with us for the Sunday Masses. Deacon Joe will continue to help during the time Fr. Tony is away.

### Daily Mass during Fr. Tony's Vacation

There will be no daily Masses on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday's during Fr. Tony's vacation. We are hoping to arrange a Word and Communion Service for Wednesdays, and more information will be forthcoming as the arrangements are made.

## Save the Dates



### Mardi Gras 2022

**Sunday, February 27, 2022**

Mardi Gras tickets are now available to pick up in church. Look for your name on the envelopes at the table in the Narthex. Please pick up your envelopes and sell, sell, sell!

### Cadillac Dinner 2022

**Saturday, March 26, 2022**

Dinner will consist of the following: appetizers, salad, bottle of wine on the table, basket of rolls, chicken/ribs/shrimp buffet. Doors will open at 4pm. A sit down salad will be served starting at 5:30pm and the buffet will start at 6:00pm. The price is \$140 per ticket for 2 people and a chance at the main prizes. \$105 for dinner for one person plus a chance at the main prizes. **Tickets are now for sale in the office.**

Prizes will be :

1st - \$1000

2nd - \$500

3rd - \$300



We will also give \$50 for every 10th number drawn for the grand prizes/bingo.

**With the rise in COVID cases and the new variant and per the recommendation of Archbishop Hebda, we encourage everyone to wear masks in church.**



## Do You Need Help?

Friends In Need can help with food. Call on Mondays from noon to 3:00pm or Tuesday mornings after 7:30am at 651-458-0730 to make an appointment to choose your own food for your family. Masks will be required inside the food shelf.

## Victim Assistance Hotline

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

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## Praying with the Pope

### December

#### Intention for evangelization - Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Parish Staff

**Pastor:**

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

**Deacon:**

*Joe Utecht*  
jutecht1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

**Business Administrator:**

*Amy Stein* ext. 103  
astein1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

**Director of Music:**

*Robin Medrud* ext. 107  
rmedrud1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

**Pastoral Associate:**

*Sue Kainz*  
sue64kainz@comcast.net

**Director of Faith Formation:**

*LeAnn Dalbec* ext. 108  
ldalbec1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

**Safe Environment Coordinator:**

*Tom Stom* ext. 110  
tstrom1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

**Director of Bldg & Grounds:**

*Bryce Hauck* ext. 106  
bhauck1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

**Office Manager:**

*Tina Fox* ext. 101  
tfox1@st-thomas-aquinas.com

## This Week At A Glance

Key: (C) Church; (AB) Activities Building

**Monday:** December 27

Parish Office CLOSED

**Tuesday:** December 28

**Wednesday:** December 29

NO - Rosary (C)

NO - Mass (C)

9:45am - Bible Study (C)

NO Faith Formation (C)

**Thursday:** December 30

NO - Rosary (C)

NO - Mass (C)

**Friday:** December 31 - New Year's Eve

Parish Office CLOSED

NO - Rosary (C)

NO - Mass (C)

**Saturday:** January 1

9:00am - Mass - Mary Holy Mother of God  
(C - Holy day of Obligation)

Deceased Members of the Kazmierczak  
Family †

4:00pm - Mass - The Epiphany of the Lord (C)

John & Lorraine Sathra †

**Sunday:** January 2 - The Epiphany of the Lord

8:30am - Mass (C)

Charles & Mary McGraw †

10:30am - Mass (C)

All Souls in Purgatory †

10:30am - Liturgy of the Word (C)

**Monday:** January 3

**Tuesday:** January 4

**Wednesday:** January 5

8:30am - Rosary (C)

9:00am - Word and Communion (C)

9:45am - Bible Study (C)

5:30pm - Faith Formation - TEACHER/VOLUNTEER  
NIGHT ONLY (C)

7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal (C)

**Thursday:** January 6

NO - Rosary (C)

NO - Mass (C)

7:00pm - Men's Club Meeting

**Friday:** January 7

NO - Rosary (C)

NO - Mass (C)

1:00pm - 6:00pm Blood Drive (AB)

**Saturday:** January 8 - Baptism of the Lord

4:00pm - Mass (C)

All those in our Cemetery †

**Sunday:** January 9 - Baptism of the Lord

8:30am - Mass (C)

Gene Fredrick †

10:30am - Mass (C)

Norman & Shirley Smith †

10:30am Liturgy of the Word (C)

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