ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston | Served by Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales

12627 W. BELLFORT AVE., SUGAR LAND, TX 77478 | 281-240-6721 | WWW.STASUGARLAND.COM

APRIL 4, 2021

WELCOME HOME

PASTOR:
Rev. Joseph Pottemmel, MSFS
frjoseph@stasugarland.com

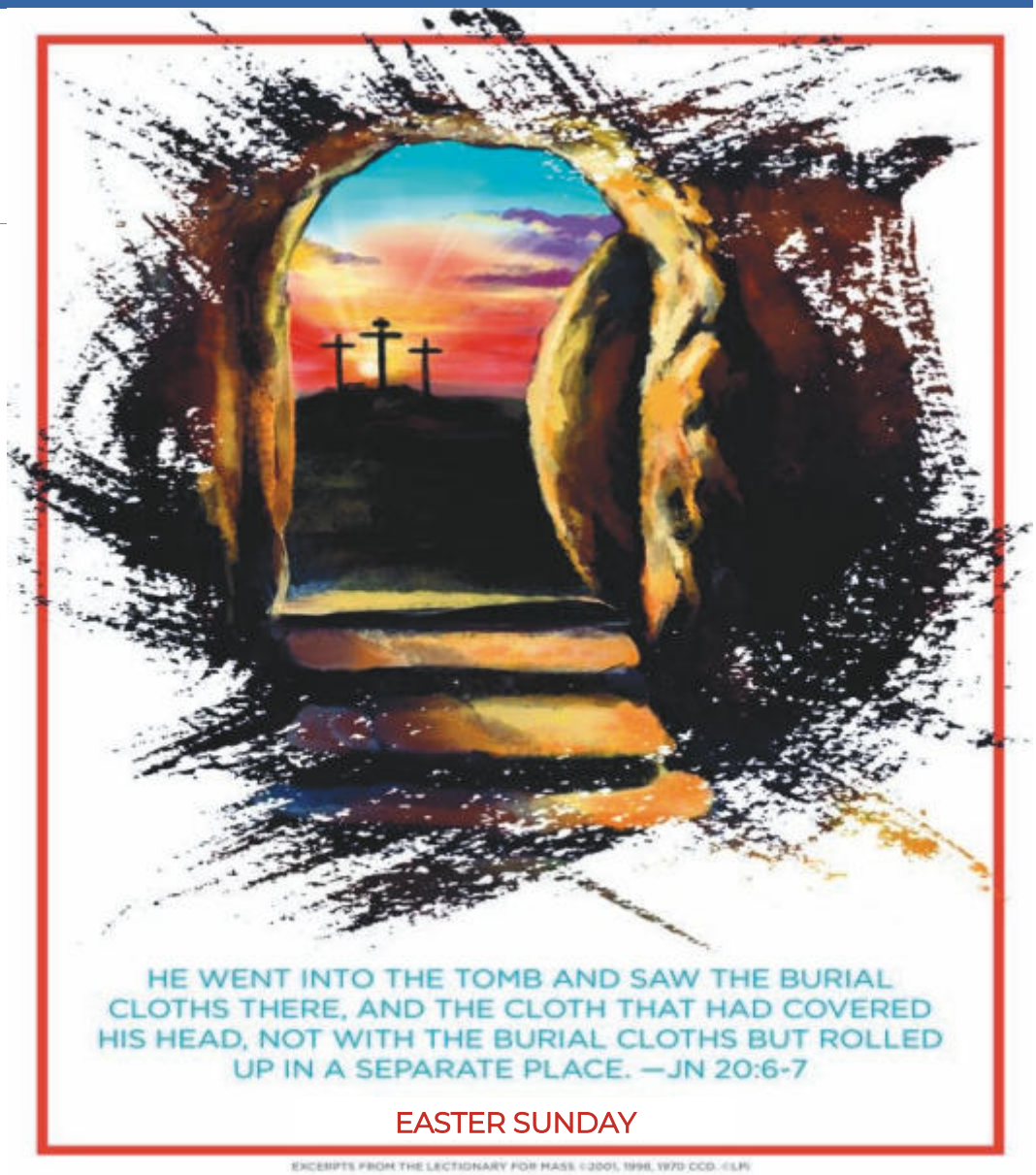
PAROCHIAL VICAR:
Rev. Mathew Thayil, MSFS
frmthayil@stasugarland.com

DEACON
Sam Dunning
sdunning@archgh.org

MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sun. 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

DAILY MASS
Mon.-Sat. 8:00 a.m.,
Wed. 7:00 p.m.,

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE
By request after Mass,
Mondays & Tuesdays
Saturday: 4:00 – 4:45 p.m.



OUR MISSION

"We the Parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church are a diverse Christ Centered community empowered by the Holy Spirit and strengthened by the Word and the Sacraments to Proclaim the Good News"

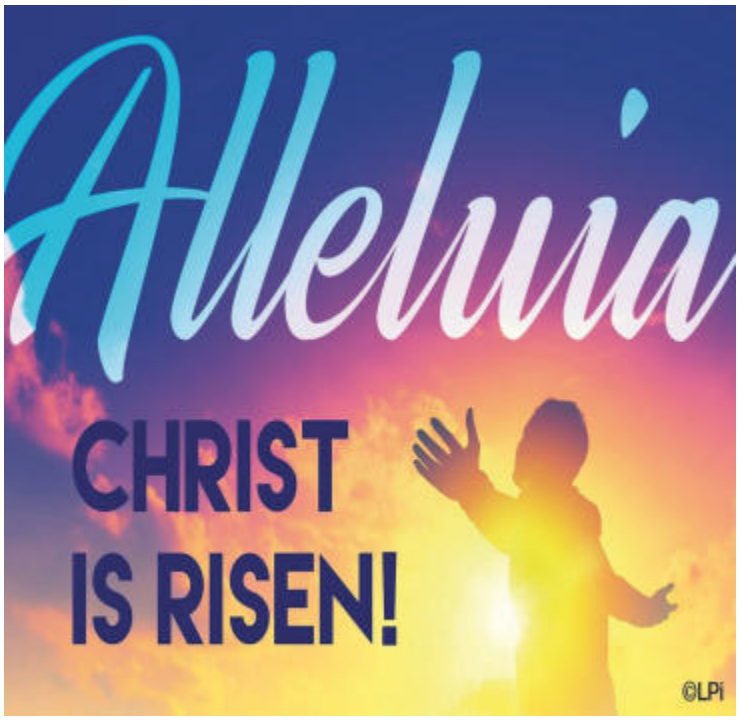
REFLECTION

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Who are You? This question was most assuredly asked of Jesus on the day of resurrection and it is a question asked of each of us. Our identities can be described in so many ways. We can start with our gifts and our talents, expertise and unique personality expressions. We can describe things we like and things we prefer to set aside. As descriptive and captivating as these can be, none come close to our essence, our real and true self. While accurate in their own right, the self who lives and interacts with the world is the self we want others to see, the one we project. But there is much more to us just as there is much more to Jesus.

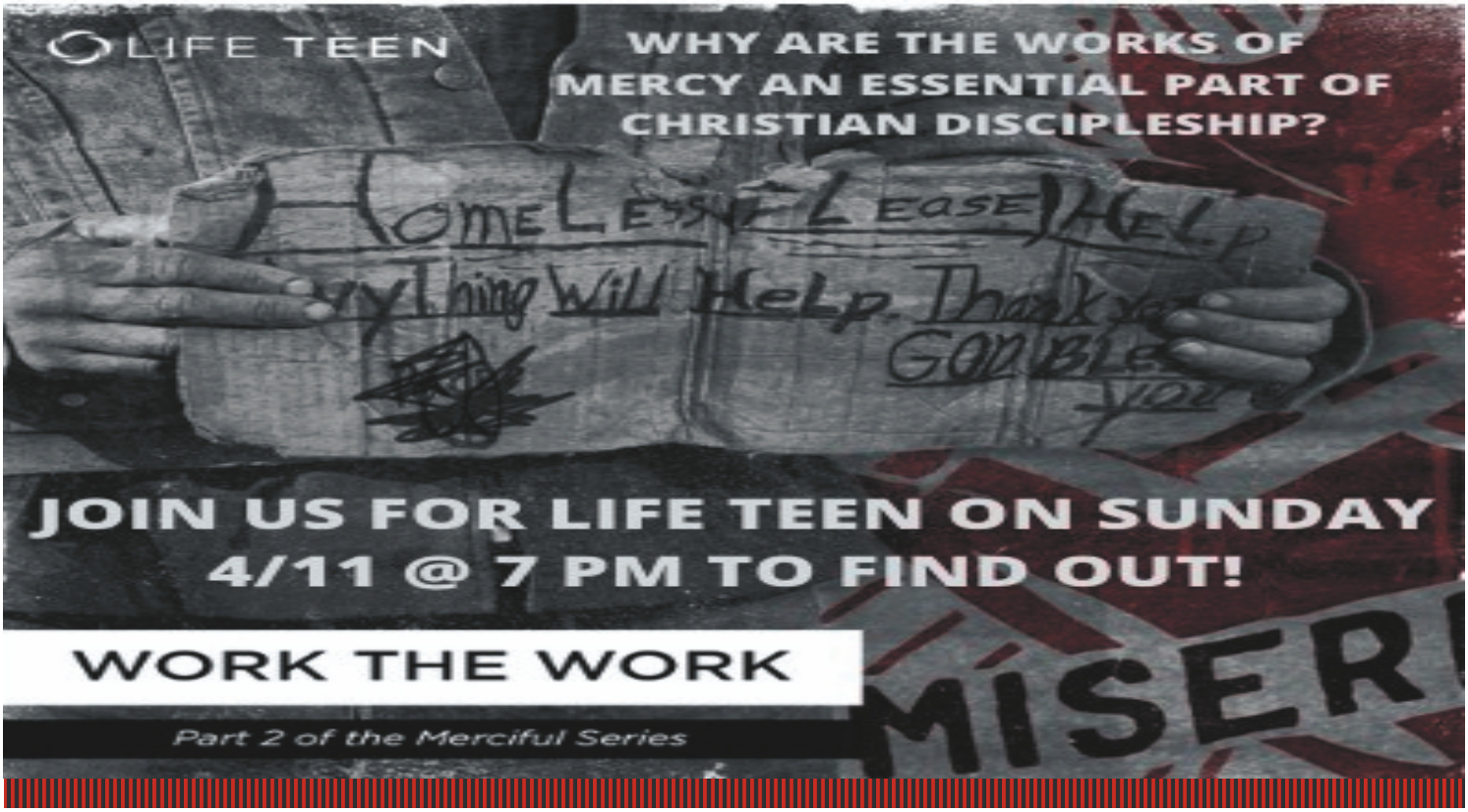
Jesus could describe Himself based on all of the same criteria we use for ourselves. After all, Jesus is totally human. With all that people witnessed and all that Jesus knew about His physical human self, His divinity also shined forth. There was so much more to know about Him. Whereas once Jesus was transfigured on top of a mountain before His Disciples' eyes, so today He is transfigured before our eyes as He reveals His resurrected self as the Christ. Alleluia, Christ is risen! His glorified presence stands before us showing us that we are all much more than we see ourselves to be and show to others. We have a depth, purpose, and essence that go way beyond the superficial treasures of our existence to the very core of who we are.

Within each one of us is a spark of Divine Love where creature and Creator meet, and we are known uniquely by the name God whispers to us. It is not the earthly name that was given to us but the one that flows from Divine Power and claims us as one who is special and chosen in God's eyes. This is the self that will rise one day with the eternal Christ of God and live eternally as God provides. This is the self that when free from all superficial constraints layered upon it in this life can discover and know freedom in a way never possible before. This is love lifting us up and transforming us into who we really are, not who we want or need ourselves to be. Who are you? A special, unique child of God who has been fashioned in God's image, sustained by the power of God's love and kept eternally with the Blessed Trinity in Heaven. Get to know this deeper, truer self as it is who you really are.



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Alleluia! Christ is risen! About today's feast, St. Augustine writes: "And He departed from our sight that we might return to our hearts and find Him there. For He left us, and behold, He is here." Christ's resurrected presence lives not only in the highest Heaven but in the fragile human heart. Christ's life inspires us and moves us to see a future for every human being and discover our true purpose and meaning. Every human being has a desire to live, and this cry can be heard within. There is a longing for a connection with Someone greater than ourselves that gives an import to our existence that we cannot supply. Today, our deepest questions find answers.


LIFE TEEN
WHY ARE THE WORKS OF MERCY AN ESSENTIAL PART OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP?
JOIN US FOR LIFE TEEN ON SUNDAY 4/11 @ 7 PM TO FIND OUT!
WORK THE WORK
Part 2 of the Merciful Series

CALLED TO SERVE!
Called to Serve
Called to Serve
JOIN US FOR EDGE ON WEDNESDAY 4/7 @ 6:30 PM TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN BE A MISSIONARY DISCIPLE OF JESUS CHRIST!

PARISH INFORMATION

STEWARDSHIP

4thSunday of Lent
March 13 - 14, 2021

1st Collection

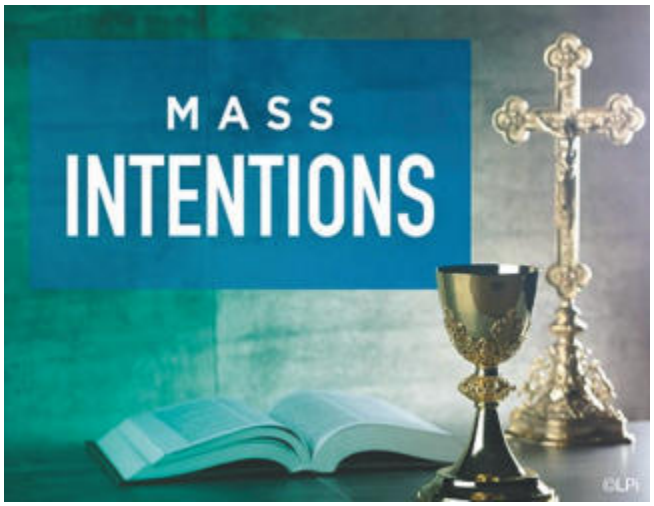
Total..... $12,260

STA Cares Collection this weekend.....$ 17,013

Thank you for your donation!

IGNITE Payment for the Archdiocese of Galveston –Houston
Total Campaign Amount $ 538,853.00

	Amount	Balance
1st Payment 4/30/2019	33,678.31	505,174.69
2nd Payment 7/30/2019	33,678.31	471,496.38
3rd Payment 10/17/2019	33,678.31	437,818.07
4th Payment 12/19/2019	33,678.31	404,139.76
5th Payment 3/26/2020	33.678.31	370,461.45
6th Payment 7/15/2020	33.678.31	336,783.14
7th Payment 10/15/2020	33,678.31	303,104.83



LIVE STREAMING MASSES

DAILY MASS AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS IS NOW AVAILABLE ON FACEBOOK: https://facebook.com/stasugarland1/

WEEKEND STREAMED CATHOLIC MASS AVAILABLE AT ST. THOMAS AQUINAS WEBSITE www.stasugarland.com

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3

8:30 p.m. Paula Anicete - Birthday

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving for Ifeanyi Family

11:00 a.m. Thanksgiving for STA African Parishioners

MONDAY, APRIL 5

8:00 a.m. For All Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

8:00 a.m. Thanksgiving for Alan Cordova

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

8:00 a.m. Andrew J. Ocampo †

7:00 p.m. Prayer Bag, Prayer Bowl & Internet

THURSDAY, APRIL 8

8:00 a.m. Mark Gomilla †

FRIDAY, APRIL 9

8:00 a.m. Luke Lyons †

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

8:00 a.m. Fedic & Becky Denisa †

5:00 p.m. Dionisia Atienza †

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

9:00 a.m. Joseph Maniscalo †

11:00 a.m. Michael Salako - Birthday

LITURGICAL LIFE

TIME*TALENT*TREASURE

The Coronavirus crisis has challenged our parish and faith community in difficult and unexpected ways. Many of our parishioners have generously been continuing their regular contributions in spite of the unprecedented situation. These contributions are critical for the continued upkeep and operation of the parish and the support is deeply appreciated. Even though our Mass schedule has been severely limited, contributions can still be made electronically, by mail or via the drop slot at the STA office. God bless you and your families and may God keep you safe and healthy during this terrible crisis.

For FAITH DIRECT you can enroll by logging into www.faithdirect.net. Then click on "Give Today" and enter TX371 for the Church code. If you need your parishioner ID. Please email Lety Cordova at lcordova@stasugarland.com

To use VANCO go to the Parish website: www.ststasugarland.com and click on the online GIVING icon.

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH STAFF

BUSINESS MANAGER
Lee Meister
lmeister@stasugarland.com

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Aquinas Early Childhood Center
Erum Khan 281-240-7196
ekhan@stasugarland.com

YOUTH MINISTER
Rachel Alcocer
ralcocer@stasugarland.co

CCE COORDINATOR
Matt Falleri
mfalleri@stasugarland.com

MUSIC MINISTER
Mathew Maglasang
mmaglasang@stasugarland.com

BOOKKEEPER
Vivian Kuoh
vkuoh@stasugarland.com

PARISH SECRETARY
Leticia Cordova
lcordova@stasugarland.com

OFFICE HOURS
Mon.-Thur. 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. (Lunch)
Fri: 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Sat & Sun: Closed

St. Thomas Aquinas
Knights of Columbus
Council 7382

Knights of Columbus Council 7382 is offering higher education scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year. Eligible applicants are members in good standing of Council 7382 and their dependents. Members of families registered here at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church may also apply. Applications can be picked up at the parish office or downloaded at:
rebrand.ly/scholar2021_fill

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING to the Call

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

When my kids were young, we never made it past the first whiff of any narrative tension before I got this question. As soon as whatever princess or furry woodland animal who was the hero of the story got into any small scrape, they wanted that reassurance, "Is there a happy ending?"

I can't say I blame them. Don't we all feel that way sometimes? We enter into a relationship with someone or some situation, and we just want to protect ourselves. We want to know it's not going to go badly — or, if it does, that we will be able to come back from it. It's a human instinct, a reflex. Our inclination to protect ourselves makes it so that we sometimes want to press fast-forward on the bad stuff and skip straight ahead to the happily-ever-after.

Easter is the ultimate happy ending. It's the day of miracles. The day when all the stones roll away and all the sins are forgiven. It's the day that puts everything right.

But if we learned anything from this week — from the Passion and death of the Lord — it's that we can't press fast-forward on the hardships of life. That tension, that loss, that fear — it's crucial, isn't it? As Catholics, we are who we are because of Easter. But Easter doesn't happen without Good Friday.

So, does the story of salvation have a happy ending? We know it does. But we also remember that the ending isn't all that matters.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Question: Do we need to fast for one hour before Mass, or one hour before communion?

Answer: The practice of fasting before receiving the Eucharist is a centuries-old act of devotion that was once very different than it is today. In the 1917 Code of Canon Law, for example, anyone who wanted to receive the Eucharist had to fast from midnight until the time of communion (even water and medications were forbidden). Over the following decades, the rules for the Eucharistic fast were relaxed, first by Pope Pius XII and, later, by Pope Saint Paul VI.

The current Code of Canon Law (1983) states very clearly: "A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before Holy Communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine" (Canon 919, §1). And, in the case of those who are ill and the elderly, the rules are even more accommodating, "The elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour"

So, if we strictly follow the "letter of the law," the fast is calculated from the time of Holy Communion and not the start of Mass. However, when we remember why we fast — it is a reminder of the deeper hungers of the spirit that our physical thirst or hunger symbolize — we see that the issue is much bigger than simply fulfilling what is called for by Church Law and tradition. Joining fasting to our prayers and reflection before Mass is an opportunity to really center ourselves and to prepare our minds, hearts, and bodies to welcome the One we receive in the Eucharist.

INFORMATION

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CARES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The coronavirus pandemic has, not surprisingly, had a negative impact on our St. Thomas Aquinas Cares Capital Campaign. While many parishioners have been able to faithfully meet their campaign pledges, many others have experienced financial hardships due to the pandemic and they have been forced to reduce or delay their contributions. We pray that with God's grace the pandemic will soon be brought to an end and we will be able to reach our campaign goals. May God continue to bless all of you for your sacrificial giving.

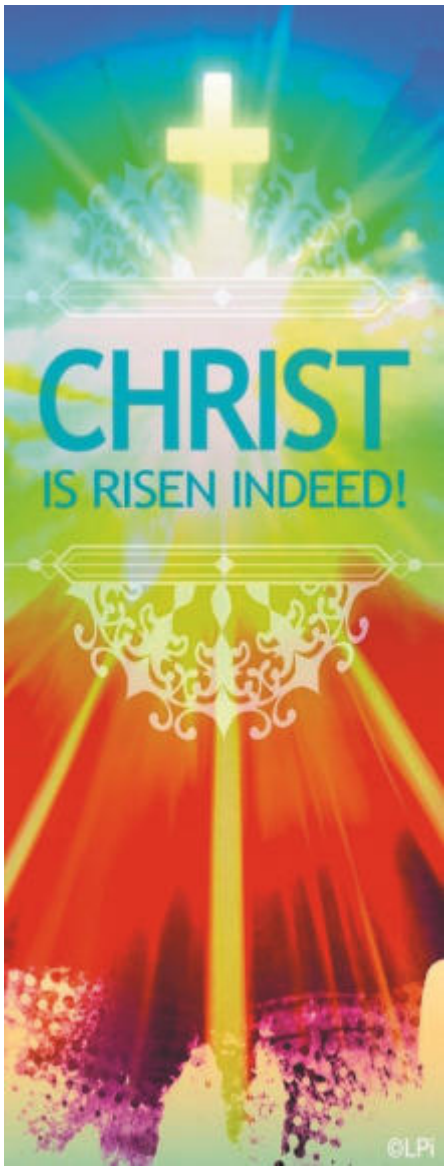
To ensure that your contributions are credited correctly, always use your regular Cares contribution envelopes and write "Cares" on your check along with your envelope number.

For FAITH DIRECT: You can enroll to make secure payments by logging into www.faithdirect.net. Then click on "Give Today" and enter TX371 for the Church code. Then click on "Enroll in Recurring eGiving" to create an account and set up your capital campaign contribution payment using your credit card or bank account. Be sure you choose "Recurring Gifts," then ''Campaign,'' and then select "STA Cares Capital Campaign." You can also choose "One Time Gift Now" and then choose "STA Cares Campaign" to make your deposit.

Challenge goal: $2,500,000
Pledges from parishioners and non -parishioners: $2,306,937
Contributions received to date: $1,552,159

As we approach our goal of $2.5 million, remember that the funds will be used for the following purposes:
- STA parish needs and improvements: $1,960,000
- Archdiocesan Ignite Campaign: $538,853.00

I am so pleased by the generosity and faithfulness of our STA family. I pray that God will shower many blessings upon you for your wonderful commitment to our parish.
Pray for the continued success of STA Cares!



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Baptism preparation classes are canceled at this moment. Please call the parish office for information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
Engaged couples need to call, Matt Falleri (281) 240-6721 ext. 107 , six to nine months before your wedding to allow time for preparation.

SACRAMENT OF HEALING
In case of illness, please call the Priest.

PASTORAL ASSISTANT

LORD, WE LIFT UP PETITIONS OF HEALING FOR OUR SICK, ESPECIALLY:

Jane Arinze, Katherine Bacala, Fr. Angelito Baldonado SDB, Michael Ballard, Monica Brady, Elizabeth Brown, Fr. John Bosco, Dan Burch, Donna Buczo, Wilda Cali, Enriqueta Cazares, Victoria Chukwura, Alan Cordova, Miguel Corte, Pierce Counts, Jorge Coria, Steve Cunningham, Michael DeBondt, Fr. Vince Dulock, Bill Esco, Joan Fowler, Doris Giroir, Eunice Glaude, Javier Guzman, Michaela Hale, Elizabeth Jackson, Laura Jackson, Floyd James, Paul James, Sara Jara, Denise Walker Jones, Aniceta Julian, Craig Junek, Mama Luz Kalu, Jasmine Danielle King, Della Klesel, Dorie Lacsamana, Dana Bryan Lee, Kenny & Laurie Legnon, Maria Lim, Mateo Sparman Luna, Raymond Macha, Emily Marsh, Sharon &Timothy McCulloch, Ronald Murphy, Lancelot G. Muschamp, Victoria Navarro, Dejean Nixon, Fr. Miguel Obregon, Augustina Odoh, Emmanuel Odoh, Rebecca Olinde, John Olinde, Josephine N. Panis, Carlos Pena, C. Edwaldo Pena, Gloria Peralta, Antoinette Pinina, Jake Poroo, Larry Rideau, Bob Ried, Andre Riser, Katherine Rooker, Dionisia &Felipe Rubico, Mark Ryan, Lily Sagrado, Eileen Sedita, Steven Shetzline, Richard Shield, Joan Sloat, Jon Stemkoski, Tanya Casipe-Stevens, Martha Swift, Jacob Tankeh, Fr. Carl Tenhundfeld, Caitlyn Thuy Tran, Hope Trevino, Brandon Triggs, Merita, Joseph & Zachary Vancelette, Annabelle Van Deursen, Joe Vincelet, Nicholas Vizzini, Betty Jo Vollenweider Susan Vollenweider, Cynthia Williams, Pamela Wike, Fr. Drew Wood, Amy Yanez, Don Yeager, Laura Yumul, and our Catholic Residents at The Hampton Meadows Place Assisted Living Facility, Bedford Place, Home Sweet Home, First Smile and Catholic Patients at Atrium Medical Center.

WEEKLY PRAYER

SUN 4/04	Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 [24]/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or Lk 24:13-35
MON 4/05	Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11 [1]/ Mt 28:8-15
TUE 4/06	Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [5b]/ Jn 20:11-18
WED 4/07	Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [3b]/ Lk 24:13-35
THR 4/08	Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2, 5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/ Lk 24:35-48
FRI 4/09	Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-24, 25-27 [22]/ Jn 21:1-14
SAT 4/10	Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1, 14-15, 16-18, 19-21 [21a] /Mk 16:9-15
SUN 4/11	Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/ 1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3

PRAY FOR THE DECEASED:

BERTHA J. RODRIGUEZ,
mother of Veronica Romero.

May She Rest in Peace.

NEW JERUSALEM CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL PRAYER

LIVING THE EASTER SPIRIT

As we celebrate the Risen Life of Jesus, the world, so captivated by His death, will eventually oppose us. The world will not just be so upset about our verbal proclamation of Jesus' Resurrection; it will eventually tremble when we practice what we preach by changing our lifestyle so as to more powerfully proclaim the Resurrection. If we obey the world, the Resurrection message will be stifled. If we obey God, we will be gaining energy in witnessing for the Risen Christ. The world can tolerate lip-service to Jesus' Resurrection, but when we act as if the Resurrection demanded a new life, then we threaten the world! The Resurrection of Christ is the proof of the redemptive work of Christ to all that believe in Him. For as Paul said in **1Cor 15:14-17**, **'And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.' Praise God, Christ Arose!**

If we are honest with ourselves, we may admit that we're like Doubting Thomas. Our faith in the Resurrection may not be strong. In other words, we may believe in the Resurrection theoretically, but also have a lack of faith to live it out in practical ways. We need the Holy Spirit to confirm us and to renew the Sacraments of Initiation [Baptism and Confirmation] in our lives. Jesus is breathing on us and saying, **"Receive the Holy Spirit" [John 20:22].** He's giving us the grace to respond: **"My Lord and my God!" [John 20:28].** By the power of the Holy Spirit, this Easter can be a new act of faith rather than a continuation of doubt. And you will be filled again with the Holy Spirit and will continue **"to speak God's Word with confidence" (Acts 4:31).** If however the Easter Spirit is stifled in our life, we can pray the prayer of **Acts 4:29-30, "Grant to Your servants to continue to speak Your word with boldness, while You stretch out Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of Your Holy Servant Jesus.'**

Alleluia! Jesus Has Risen! He's alive, and we shall live with Him forever! Alleluia!

PRAYER MEETING CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

For any questions, please call Emmanuel OFILI on 832-247-5226.

Aquinas Early Childhood Center
School of nature

Who We Are

Seeing a need for high quality early childhood education in the community, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Parish rose to the challenge. Licensed by the State of Texas, our degreed teachers and Frog Street Curriculum allow children to flourish.

- NCI accepted
- Enrolling from 6 weeks to 6 years old. Full time as well as Mother's Day Out program
- Breakfast, Lunch & PM Snack is included in the tuition.
- 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM, weekdays
- Closed circuit cameras and coded security access
- **Parishioner discounts are available.**

Contact Us

We want to get to know you! Stop by to see us or contact us to schedule a tour.

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VARICOSE VEINS? TIRED AND ACHING LEGS?
They could be a sign of vein disease.

Venous reflux can cause these signs and symptoms[1]:
- Varicose veins
- Swelling
- Itching
- Heaviness or tiredness
- Aching
- Cramping
- Restlessness
- Open skin sores

CVI Risk Factors[1]:
- Family history
- Lack of exercise
- Leg injury or trauma
- Prolonged sitting or standing
- Obesity or excess weight
- Current or previous pregnancies
- Smoking

If venous reflux is left untreated, it may worsen over time and develop into a more serious form of vein disease called chronic venous insufficiency, or CVI.[2]

Learn more about symptoms, risk factors, and treatments at **Medtronic.com/VeinDisease**

References
[1] Criqui MH, Denenberg JO, Langer RD, Kaplan RM, Fronek A. Epidemiology of Chronic Peripheral Venous Disease. In Bergan JJ, Bunke-Paquette N, eds. *The Vein Book*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2013:27-36.
[2] Eberhardt RT, Raffetto JD. Chronic venous insufficiency. *Circulation*. July 22, 2014;130(4):333-346.

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