

DECEMBER 26, 2021

13720 West Thomas Road

Avondale, AZ 85392

Ph: (623) 935-2151

Fax: (623) 935-5044

www.stacc.net

MASS TIMES

Mon-Sat: 8:00am Sat (Vigil): 5:00pm Sun: 7:00am, 9:00am, 10:45am*, 12:30pm *Mass Livestreamed on Aquinas Catholic Church YouTube channel

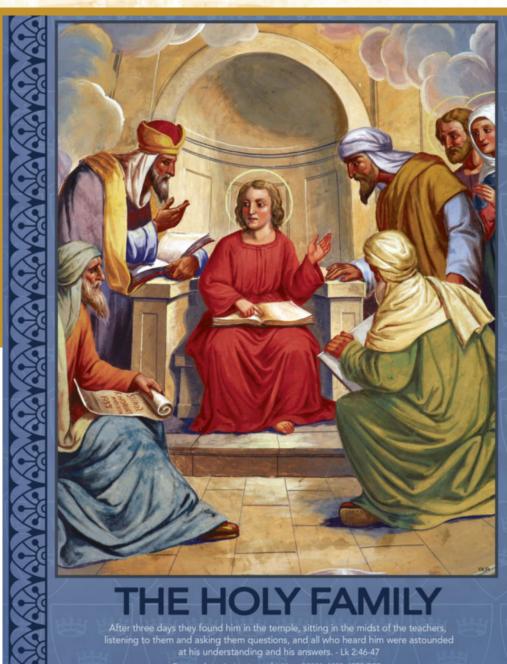
CONFESSIONS

Sat: 8:30am to 9:30am **Wed:** 5:00pm to 6:45pm

ADORATION

Tues: 1:00pm to 7:00pm **Wed:** 1:00pm to 7:00pm **Thurs:** 1:00pm to 7:00pm **Fri.:** 8:30am to 12:30pm





Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.





PARISH STAFF

CLERGY

FR. John Muir, **Pastor** FR. Chris Gossen FR. Ryan Lee

DCN. Ken Porter DCN. Jason Robinson DCN. Edgar Carnecer DCN. Ken Wedge DCN. Chuck Shaw

STAFF

Steve Henry

Parish Manager

Andrew Starbuck x206
Facilitator of Faith Formation
Mayra Romero x218
Marriage Prep
Gina Kaiser x210
Infant Baptism
Derek Diesner x274

x220

Communications

Stephanie Chorkavy x243 The DOC Manager

Daniel Sauceda x212

Director of Sacred Liturgy

Julie Cipriano x275

Executive Assistant to the Pastor

MaryLina Luna x214

Assistant to the Parish Manager

Ronnie Buchino x290

Receptionist & Parish Assistant

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Word made Flesh,

The mystery washing over us now is that God became one of us. It seems too weak to say that it encourages us, though it does...even as it shocks, confounds, and flabbergasts us. There's something about it that only poetry can begin to illuminate. The modern poet John Betjeman's poem "Christmas" concludes thus:

No love that in a family dwells,
No caroling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare—
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives to-day in Bread and Wine.

God has drawn unthinkably close to us in our own humanity and in the Great Sacrament of the Eucharist. In Jesus, we encounter One who is fully God and fully man. He feeds us with Himself in the Eucharist. This paradox always involves human things (family love, caroling, bells, bread and wine, etc) which are almost embarrassingly surpassed by the Divine Presence. Or, on the other hand, which seem to hide the divine presence and power. Afterall, there He is: a baby, crying, in a poor wandering loving family.

So we should allow the poetry of this Christmas season to attract our curiosity, to allow the paradox to become plausible. The feast of the Holy Family helps us consider more deeply the Christmas mystery, as will Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord.

I'm grateful to everyone who participated in our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations, making them so beautiful. I'm particularly grateful for our hard-working little staff at the parish, and our priests and deacons. They work SO hard to make our parish run beautifully. Let's pray they enjoy some well-deserved rest. I'm also grateful to everyone who supports the parish with your prayer, service, and financial support. It all makes a huge difference, every little bit.

I pray that this Christmas Season may deepen our love for the great saving mystery which is God-made-man.

Joyfully,

Fr John Muir

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, DEC. 26

07:00am Pedro Francisco Cano †

09:00am David Long †

10:45am Intentions of the Parish 12:30pm Kurt James Tesch †

MONDAY, DEC. 27

08:00am Donald Rogers †

TUESDAY, DEC. 28

08:00am Mr. & Mrs. Robert Corona †

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 29

08:00am Ed Dutton †

THURSDAY, DEC. 30

08:00am David Mendoza †

FRIDAY, DEC. 31

08:00am Belen Gurvera † 05:30pm Kurt James Tesch †

SATURDAY, JAN. 1

08:00am Walter Steiner †

05:00pm Mr. & Mrs. Reynaldo Cruz †

SUNDAY, JAN. 2

07:00am James O. Young †

09:00am MSgt Terry Rahe, USAF † 10:45am Intentions of the Parish 12:30pm Rickey Gulipardo †



WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back.

This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.





"Love and Good Works"

Hebrews 10:24

Help others this holiday season by donating a gift card to help a refugee family or teen, children in foster care, vulnerable women seeking a better life, a person/family at our affordable housing community near you, a veteran or children 0-17 with gifts for our Emergency Santa Shop.

Simply purchase a gift card, write your parish name & who you want to help and mail it to: Catholic Charities, 4747 N 7th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85013 You may donate online at https://www.catholiccharitiesaz.org/ways-to-give

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MASS SCHEDULI

FRIDAY, DEC 31

8AM (7TH DAY OF THE CHRISTMAS OCTAVE)

5:30PM (VIGIL FOR MARY MOTHER OF GOD)

SATURDAY, JAN 1

8AM (MARY MOTHER OF GOD)

5PM (VIGIL FOR EPIPHANY)

SUNDAY, JAN 2

(EPIPHANY)

7AM, 9AM, 10:45AM, 12:30PM



EVERY OTHER SUNDAY 9am Mass

Kinder - 2nd Grade

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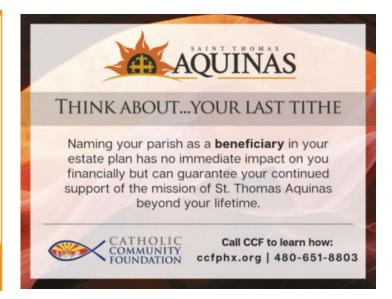
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AQUINAS

Women's Retreat

Explore how to be a disciple of Jesus Christ wherever you are in life

Date: Feb. 5, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission: \$15 (pay at the door) (Cost covers Light Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks, Drinks, and printed materials.)

Location: St. Clare Hall
Northwest corner of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.

RSVP: Email womensretreatrsvp@gmail.com



Lisa Hendey Award-winning Author, Speaker and Missionary Disciple



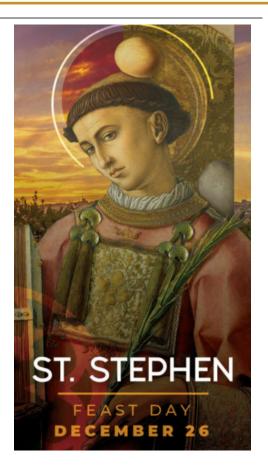
Arasely Rios
Founder & Creative Director
for
Seraphym Heirloom Rosaries



Sherry Boas
Publisher at Caritas
Press, Author,
Owner of Crowning
Glory Tea Room



Jennifer Chan Owner & Designer, "Her Honor, His Glory Rosaries and Faith-based





SAVE THE DATE FOR THE NUN RUN

The Poor Clares of Perpetual Adoration of Our Lady of Solitude Monastery invite you to participate in their largest fundraising event of the year: The 13th Annual Nun Run on March 5th, 2022 at Kiwanis Park, Tempe.

10K, 5K, I Mile, Prayer Walk.

For more information, visit: www.desertnunrun.com

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6

This week's readings can be found at 1019 The Holy Family / C The Order of Mass can be found on the Red Trimmed pages.



- The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?
- There is one thing I ask of the LORD, Only this do I seek: To live in the house of the LORD All the days of my life,
- **3.** To gaze on the beauty *of* the LORD, To inquire *at* his temple.
- For there he keeps me safe in his shelter
 In the day of evil.
 He hides me under cover of his tent;
 He sets me high up-on a rock.
- Of you my heart has spoken, "Seek his face."
- **6.** I believe I shall see *the* LORD's goodness In the land *of* the living.

Dox. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the *Ho*-ly Spirit, As it was in the begin-*ning*, is now, And will be fore-*ver*. Amen.

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granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD."

(1 Sm 1:27-28)

PSALM

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)



SECOND READING

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

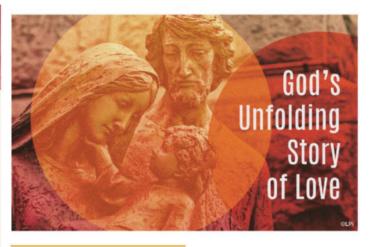


GOSPEL

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.



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What would our world look like if more of our youth knew, loved, and served Jesus Christ in their lives? Every year, here at Aquinas, hundreds of children & teens go through our religious education, sacramental

preparation, and youth ministry programs. Through the generosity of our parishioners' tithing, we are able to keep costs low while providing the highest-quality materials, events, retreats, conferences, and more! However, some of our families require partial or full scholarship assistance for their children.

The Shareholder Project allows you to sponsor scholarship(s) and directly bless one (or more) of our parish families. You quite literally become a Shareholder investing in the spiritual life of our youth! Please prayerfully discern if you are able to share your financial blessings with a young person in our community as they seek a deeper relationship with the God that has blessed us all so abundantly.

You can donate to the Shareholder Project via FaithDirect or by filling out the bottom of this page and returning it in an envelope with a check payable to St. Thomas Aquinas Faith Formation. This can be left in the collection basket at Mass, turned in at the Parish Office in The DOC, or dropped in the drop-box. As an added bonus, your donations are tax deductible!













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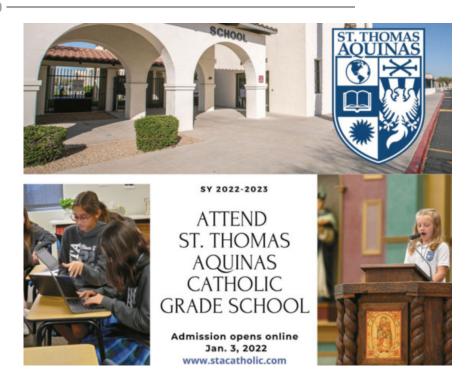
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10







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Contact

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A reminder that The DOC will be closed beginning Monday, December 27th through Saturday, January 1st. We will re-open on Sunday. January 2nd from 7:45am until 2:15pm. We will then be closed on Monday, January 3rd and will return to our normal hours on Tuesday, January 4th. Thank you!

Drink of the Month:

Stop on in to get your Jesus Birthday Cake Frappe

\$3







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OUR PARISH HISTORY

Do you have an interesting story to share? Maybe you have pictures of our Parish from many years ago? Do you have an old bulletin? Parish Directory? Artifacts from the Mission Church? If so, we want to talk to you as we are trying to document our history.

If you have anything to share, please email Janice Eckert at history@stacc.net



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - DONUT SALE

Donuts are back! Join us each Sunday outside in the Courtyard after the 7am, 9am, and 10:45am Masses and grab a donut. Join us for the fun, hospitality, and getting to know one another.

Donut Sundays 8am until 12 Noon Courtyard



BELLOW'S CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Bellow the Ox invites all children in Kindergarten through 2nd Grade to join us for Children's Liturgy during the 9am Mass. It's an adapted worship experience for children, developed to help them better understand the Gospel.

During the 9am Mass Adoration Chapel Occurs every other weekend