

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

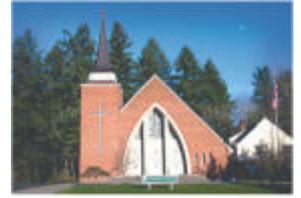
324 NE Oak Street, Camas, WA 98607

Telephone (360) 834-2126

Fax (360) 834-5106

www.stthomascamas.org

office@stthomascamas.org



APRIL 18, 2021

## 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

## MASS SCHEDULE

### Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am

### Daily Masses

Tuesday: 6:00pm

Wednesday

thru

Saturday: 8:30am

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday after our 6pm Mass and

Saturday after our 8:30am Mass

or by appointment with Fr. Jim

## PRIVATE PRAYER

The church is open for private prayer:  
Monday through Thursday from 9am to 4:30pm

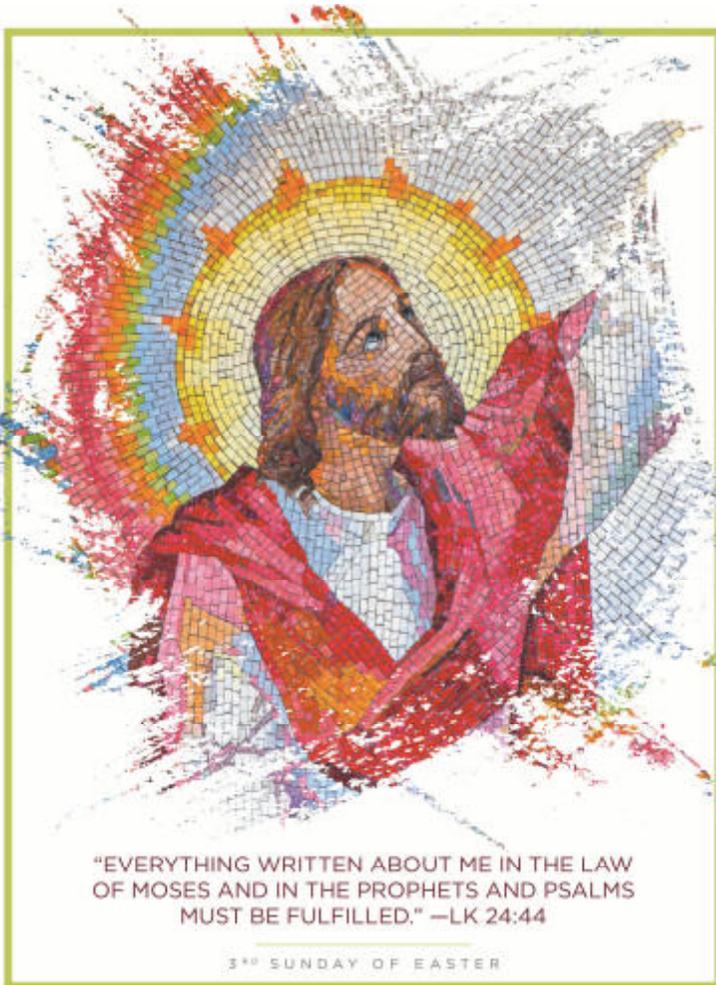
## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Walk-ins welcome

Mon-Thu: 9:00am-12:30pm, 1:00-5:00pm

By telephone on Fri: 9:00am - noon

Closed weekends and holidays



## MISSION STATEMENT

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

*Matthew 28:18-20*

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Confirmation Mass**, April 25. Please pray for our candidates and watch the Mass from home through our Facebook page!
- **Baptism Class**, April 29 via Zoom, 7 to 9pm. Contact the office to sign up.
- **First Holy Communion Mass**, May 1 at 10am
- **Mother's Day**, May 9, celebrate mom with a spiritual bouquet!



Follow us on Facebook: St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church  
or on Instagram@stthomascamas



**From the desk of Lorrie Conway**

My brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Every year, we adorn the farm with literally dozens of hanging flower baskets. These big, beautiful baskets hang on barns, our farm stand, the porch, the greenhouse; virtually everywhere that you look, we try to have a colorful basket to create a smile. They bring me so much joy throughout the growing season however invariably, when they are at their absolute premium, we have the prediction of a huge late summer windstorm. Knowing that the hot wind will absolutely fry the basket flowers that we have nurtured all summer, Shaun and I frantically run around the farm, snatching the enormous baskets off their hangers and carefully move them with their 6-8' tails of trailing foliage, to the greenhouse where they will be safe from the hot wind. This happens, without fail, every year.

Our baskets start with seeds in the greenhouse in the early spring and I add to them, geraniums that I have wintered over and some 'compost Charlie'--Creeping Charlie that I have tossed on the compost pile for the past six years and it just continues to grow, so I dig it up every spring and add it to my baskets—and together, with a bit of nurturing, it creates limitless beauty.

Every year when I start the seeds for these baskets and (not so patiently) wait for them to sprout and grow into healthy little plants, I wait and wonder if they are ever going to become anything. It feels like it takes FOREVER until one day, I see a tiny little shoot emerging, and I am assured that once again we will be able to enjoy beautiful flowers throughout the summer. Wonders never cease.

Same thing happens with my geraniums. Each spring, I brutally cut them back to nubs, just the way my clever mom taught me--she is the queen of all things growing-- and wait for new life to appear. Again, it feels like it takes forever, but eventually small green shoots begin to grow on what appeared to be stalks that were brutalized beyond repair. So remarkable!

And then we have the resiliency of the Creeping Charlie. Honestly, it refuses to give up. Each year, no matter how heartlessly I toss it away, it emerges each spring with vigor to continue another growing season.

I think we all have members in our family or friends in our lives that we know and have witnessed how brutalized their faith has become. We also know people that maybe have never been offered the opportunity to grow in faith, just as we know people that have a faith so strong that no matter what life tosses their way, nothing seems to squelch it.

Fr. Jim challenged us in his Easter homily to get involved; to plant seeds, as it were. As Catholic Christians, we plant seeds every day in what we do and say and just like the seeds in my greenhouse, sometimes it feels like we will never see anything grow from those efforts, but it is God's time, not ours! Just continuing to live out our Christianity for others to witness is planting the seeds, and even though sometimes we do not see what is happening below the surface, if we are patient, eventually new life emerges. The same can be said for patiently and lovingly caring for those that have been abused by life events or hardened to their faith. Eventually the care will help new shoots of faith and hopefulness grow for a full and beautiful eternal life. It is the 'Creeping Charlie' in all of us, the strong belief that continues to live no matter what, that creates opportunities for others to see how truly blessed we are by our faith.

We are all subjected to unseasonal storms in our life that can damage our beautiful 'faith foliage'. Nobody is immune, but that is the beauty of being part of a caring community. We watch out for one another and

when we see a storm coming for one of our friends, we carefully snatch them up and move them to a safe place with our prayers and petitions.

As we move through this beautiful liturgical season of Easter, I pray that our communities of St. Thomas Aquinas and Our Lady Star of the Sea can continue to come together and support one another and 'plant our seeds of faith' in our daily lives. We have certainly suffered some storms these past 12 months, and I pray that by living out our strong 'Creeping Charlie' faith for others to see, we will plant the seeds for others to find faith and to help them grow into their God given potential.

Enjoy this beautiful spring weather!

In Christ+

Lorrie

**PARISH OFFICE (360) 834-2126**

- PASTORAL COORDINATOR.....Lorrie Conway, ext. 208
- PASTORAL ASSOCIATE.....Ted Meany, ext. 215
- PA FOR LITURGY & MUSIC.....Kristin Yoshimura, ext. 212
- ADMIN. ASSISTANT.....Terese Dayton, ext 203
- CHILDRENS FF.....Denice Twyman, ext. 202
- SACRAMENTAL PREP.....Christine Peters, ext. 206
- MAINTENANCE.....Ryan LaFave, ext. 282
- SECRETARY.....Audrey Hockett, ext. 0

OFFICE SECRETARY EMAIL: [office@stthomascamas.org](mailto:office@stthomascamas.org)  
PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stthomascamas.org](http://www.stthomascamas.org)

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS**

- April 25 **Confirmation Mass**, 5pm. Please pray for our candidates!
- May 1 **First Holy Communion Mass**, 10am
- May 9 **Mother's Day**, celebrate mom with a spiritual bouquet!



**CDA SCHOLARSHIPS!**

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas are offering five (5) \$1,000.00 scholarships to graduating seniors from St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. The application can be found on the Parish website, <https://stthomascamas.org/documents/cda-scholarship-2021>. The application has been mailed to the scholarship counselors at Seton Catholic High School, Hayes Freedom High School, Washougal High School, Excelsior High School, and Camas High School. Completed applications should be turned in or mailed to the Parish Office, and are due no later than **May 31, 2021**.

**THE BEST CATHOLIC CONTENT - ALL IN ONE PLACE**

- Go to [formed.org](http://formed.org)
  - Enter our Parish Code on the homepage: **3FRM2C**
  - Create a personal account with email and password
- New content is being added all the time; check it out.



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## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

April 24/25

The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), to the Religious life in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to societies of apostolic life, to secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life, in the particular sense of mission "ad gentes".

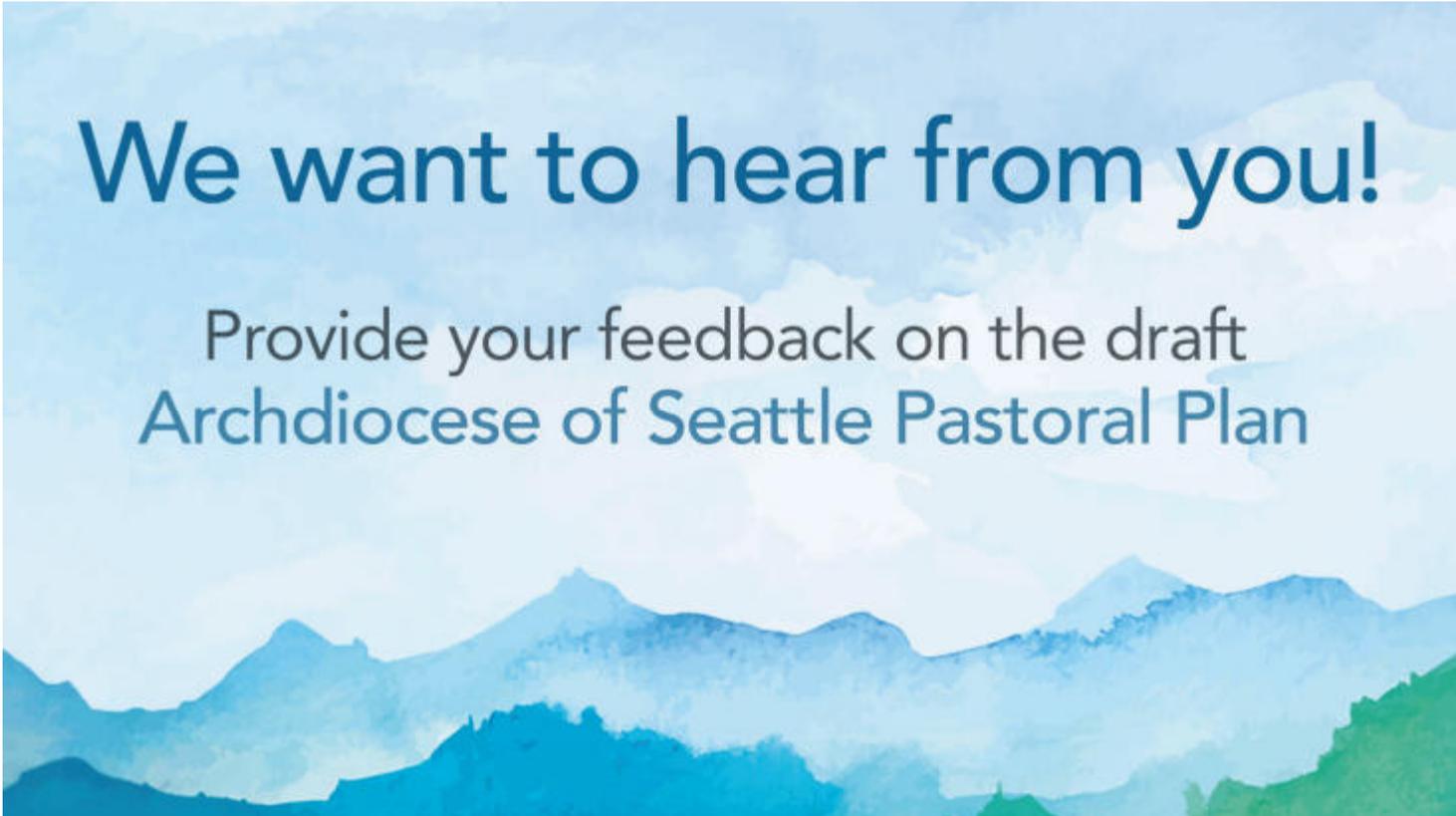
God our Father,  
You call each of us  
to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.

Inspire your people  
with desire to know you,  
the grace to understand your will,  
and, with the strength of the Holy Spirit,  
the courage to respond  
with love and freedom.

Send workers into Your great harvest  
so that the Gospel is preached, the poor  
are served with love, the suffering are comforted,  
and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

*Amen.*



# We want to hear from you!

Provide your feedback on the draft  
Archdiocese of Seattle Pastoral Plan

## Pastoral Plan Draft for Review

Last March, the Archdiocese launched an online survey collecting nearly 8,000 responses from Catholics across the region. This Catholic survey was followed by listening sessions in October, centered on the preliminary elements of the mission statement, guiding principles, and a shared vision. These sessions informed the development of the Pastoral Plan Draft. We invite all Catholics to review [the draft](#) and share feedback in [this survey](#).

### We want your feedback

We invite everyone to read the first draft of the Pastoral Plan and share your feedback in this survey. <https://10.selectsurvey.net/SeattleArchdiocese/TakeSurvey.aspx?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=96MImn6&Preview=true#>

“Our goal is to become a more mission-oriented church that continually draws people closer to Christ, regardless of where they are in their faith journey.”

~ Archbishop Etienne, June 8, 2020



**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**Serving Promise Raising Hope**  
**Virtual Event and Auction**

**May 21st, 2021 from 6:30 - 8:00 PM**

Like many events happening these days, our annual event will look a little different this year. Join us online Friday May 21st at 6:30 pm for our Annual Fundraiser Event and **AUCTION!** This inspirational event will support Family Promise of Clark County and our efforts to support families with children who are experiencing homelessness in Clark County.

While this event has moved to an online event, it still will be an impactful and exciting evening together! New to this years event we will have an online auction that will begin Monday May 17th and end at the conclusion of our online event on Friday May 21st.

We will be selling regular priced tickets for \$15 each or you can upgrade to a VIP ticket for \$50 and receive: a bottle of wine or sparkling cider, decadent chocolates and two raffle tickets for your chance to win one of our amazing raffle items!

Registration information will be sent out soon, so mark your calendars for Friday May 21st and for participating in the online auction beginning Monday May 17th through Friday May 21st!

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in donating auction items or raffle prizes, please contact Melissa Edwards at: [events@familypromiseofclarkco.org](mailto:events@familypromiseofclarkco.org) or at: (360)909-7322.

Sincerely,

David Cole  
Executive Director



*Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.*

**Sunday, Apr 18, 2021**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**Each one teach one**

Each of us walks through miracles eventually. Maybe we know it at the time and praise God heartily. Or perhaps we only look back later, realize the road's on fire behind us, and shiver. Sooner or later, we all experience the mystery of grace that carries us over obstacles, through dangers, and ferries us to safety. We are witnesses of these things. And even if we're reluctant to "talk religion" to friends, coworkers, and strangers, we'll inhabit hours when it's time to tell what we know about Divine Providence. Be attentive for when your testimony is required.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 3:13-15, 17-19; 1 John 2:1-5a; Luke 24:35-48 (47).* "You are witnesses of these things."

**Monday, Apr 19, 2021**

**EASTER WEEKDAY**

**Seek a way to serve**

Saint Timon, whose feast is today, is mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (6:5) as one of seven deacons chosen by the apostles to assist in ministering to the community of believers in Jerusalem. As the apostles concentrated on preaching, the deacons assisted in providing for the material needs of the community. This focus on both word and deed, or evangelization and service, continues to be the hallmark of Christian discipleship. As the church teaches in *Lumen Gentium*, "Each one of the faithful must willingly hear the word of God and accept God's Will, and must complete what God has begun by their own actions with the help of God's grace." What will you do to continue the work of love that begins and ends with God?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 6:8-15; John 6:22-29 (273).* "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

**Tuesday, Apr 20, 2021**

**EASTER WEEKDAY**

**Seek the light in learning**

On this day in 1303, Sapienza University of Rome was instituted by Pope Boniface VIII. Sapienza, boasting such famous alumni as Maria Montessori and Federico Fellini, is considered the first pontifical university—an institution approved by the Vatican and committed to teaching theology, philosophy, and canon law. Today, all pontifical universities are governed by the document *Veritatis Gaudium*, a 2017 update written by Pope Francis. It begins: "The joy of truth expresses the restlessness of the human heart until it encounters and dwells within God's Light, and shares that Light with all people." How will you share God's light today?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 7:51—8:1a; John 6:30-35 (274).* "The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

**Wednesday, Apr 21, 2021**

**MEMORIAL OF ANSELM, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH**

**Love the questions**

How would you define the term *theology*? Google it and you find it described as the critical study of the nature of God or the divine. Saint Anselm (1033-1109) said it another way: "Theology is faith seeking understanding." Every time you try to understand how God allows suffering, or wonder how it is that God loves every human being, or try to understand if God truly hears your prayers, you are doing the work of theology. As a French Benedictine monk and later archbishop of

Canterbury, Anselm was a wise and learned teacher who challenged the secular power of kings. Your life may not seem extraordinary, but the pursuit of knowledge about God belongs to you as well. Don't be afraid of the questions. Ask for grace to allow the questions to help your faith grow.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 8:1b-8; John 6:35-40 (275).* "Everyone who . . . believes in him (the Son) may have eternal life."

**Thursday, Apr 22, 2021**

**EASTER WEEKDAY**

**Prepare your heart for encounter**

Today's first reading about Philip explaining scripture to a receptive Ethiopian is a beautiful example of something that Pope Francis often emphasizes: the need for openness when we encounter another, especially someone different from us. In homilies, speeches, and documents, the Holy Father tells us we are called to encounter Jesus, to allow ourselves to be changed and shaped by that encounter, and to bring the same attitude to our dealings with people. Pray for the grace of openness toward the people you encounter today.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 8:26-40; John 6:44-51 (276).* "The bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world."

**Friday, Apr 23, 2021**

**EASTER WEEKDAY**

**Be the change**

Prior to his conversion, Saint Paul, who earlier in life was known by his Hebrew name Saul, was most definitely no saint. He not only disliked those who followed Jesus, he attacked them. So what happened? He encountered Jesus the Christ. Jesus did not put Paul through what fiction refers to as a "mind wipe," or erasure of former personality and memory. Jesus called Paul to stop and see clearly the truth of his mindset and actions. And then Paul put in the work. This is something we all have to do—put in the work—especially when our dislike of those who are different leads to harm.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:1-20; John 6:52-59 (277).* "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

**Saturday, Apr 24, 2021**

**EASTER WEEKDAY**

**Stay the course**

Followers of Jesus have been disputing the meaning of the eucharistic meal and Jesus' instructions to "eat my flesh and drink my blood" ever since the words were first uttered. Many could not look beyond a literal interpretation of the words to see the powerful symbolism of the image of the paschal lamb offered for the sins of the community at Passover. So they simply walked away. Now that the sacrifice has been accomplished and Easter season is well underway, will you turn away as well, or are you with those who stayed with Jesus because, like Peter, you have come to believe that he has the words of eternal life?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 9:31-42; John 6:60-69 (278).* "Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer walked with him."

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