

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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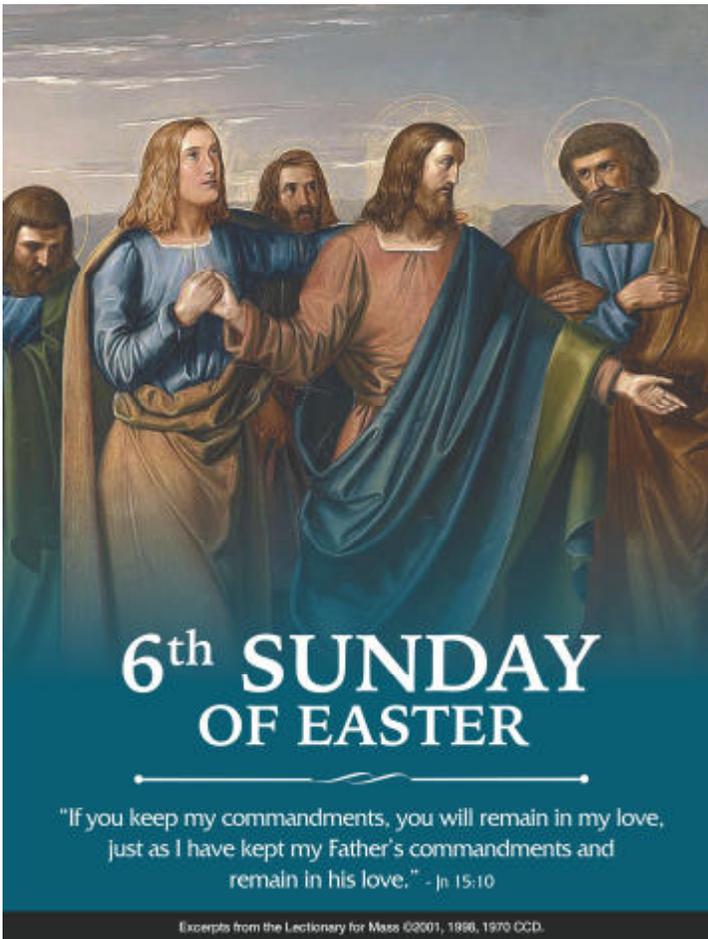
www.stthomascamas.org

office@stthomascamas.org



MAY 9, 2021

6TH 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 Friday 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:

- **Mother's Day**, May 9, celebrate Mom!
- **The Ascension of the Lord**, May 16 (transferred from Thursday, May 13)
- **Pentecost**, May 23, concludes the Easter Season with the Birthday of the Church
- **Memorial Day Holiday**, Monday, May 31. Parish office closed



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or on Instagram@stthomascamas



From the desk of Lorrie Conway

My Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers at St. Thomas and Our Lady Star of the Sea. Although this holiday is a secular holiday, that does not mean that there is not a special love and devotion that the Catholic church has for all mothers. Most especially for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To honor our most Blessed Mother in special ways in the Church, we celebrate the Solemnities of Mary, Mother of God, the Assumption, the Immaculate Conception, and we show our love through private devotions such as the rosary, dedications to Our Lady and many others. May is Mary's month, and we spend this month focusing on our Blessed Mother the most holy of all mothers. As mothers, we share with Mary a fierce love for our children and a special bond with our own mothers; a love that only a mother can understand. I hope you will join me this month in spending some time with Mary and sharing motherhood stories with her. She understands all of it!

I found this beautiful journal and this month of May feels like a perfect time to start it. Perhaps you will join me? <https://www.amazon.com/Catholic-Prayer-Journal-Moms/dp/1545317380>

Mother's Day conjures up so many wonderful feelings of gratitude, love, blessings, and joy for me that it is hard to think that this day might be painful for some of our family and friends. As I prepared to write this reflection, I paused to think about the realities that *honoring mothers* may mean to some.

For me, Mother's Day is a celebration. I am blessed with two beautiful, brilliant daughters, and an awesome, wise, and supportive mother and I am so grateful. I am aware, however, that this is a gift that not everyone shares. For some, the hope and desire to have a child of their own will never be. Some, possibly out of fear or ability to care for a child, have made the difficult choice to give a baby up for adoption. Still others, have possibly made the heartbreaking decision to end a pregnancy and are now trying to live through that choice. Some have suffered tragic losses of their children. I am reminded of a young couple I know that were anxiously anticipating their first baby. In their eighth month of pregnancy, they traveled to Pullman where Dad was defending his dissertation. On the way home, a distracted driver hit their car head-on. Mom, as the driver, was critically injured, and their sweet little baby boy was lost. The extent of Mom's injuries were so tragic that resulting surgeries meant they would never again have a child. For these women, today is not a day to celebrate, but rather a reminder of loss and pain.

This story is not an isolated incident. Among us today, we have children who have lost mothers and mothers who have lost children. For them, this day is a painful reminder of how much they miss their loves—I think especially of those that have lost their mothers or children this past year—imagine for a moment what this day might feel like for them. Instead of celebrating joyfully together, they are reminded of their loss.

Perhaps it is not about loss for some, but about illness. Whether it is physical illness or mental illness, many families carry silently the burden of trying to move from day to day through the mire of their health struggles.

Today, my Mother's Day prayer is for all of the beautiful mothers of St. Thomas and Star of the Sea that, like me, are blessed beyond measure, **but most especially** for the hurting moms. The moms that were never to be, the moms that have suffered the loss of a child and the children that have suffered the loss of a mother and for the moms that are ill or struggling in any way. May the Blessed Virgin Mary be your guide and consolation today and always.

In Christ+
Lorrie

PARISH OFFICE	(360) 834-2126
PASTORAL COORDINATOR.....	Lorrie Conway, ext. 208
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CHILDRENS FF.....	Denice Twyman, ext. 202
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MAINTENANCE.....	Ryan LaFave, ext. 282
SECRETARY.....	Audrey Hockett, ext. 0

OFFICE SECRETARY EMAIL: office@stthomascamas.org
PARISH WEBSITE: www.stthomascamas.org

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

- May 9 **Mother's Day**, celebrate mom!
- May 16 **The Ascension of the Lord**
- May 23 **Pentecost Sunday!**
- May 31 **Memorial Day Holiday - parish office closed**

ACA

We are now in our third week of the Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign. Please fill out a pledge envelope today or donate online. If you cannot give this year, please participate by keeping the efforts of the Appeal in your prayers. Thank you! For informative videos please visit: <https://archseattle.org/give-serve/annual-catholic-appeal/annual-catholic-appeal-videos/>

A Note from Bishop Mueggenborg

Just a short note to follow-up on my visit to your parish a couple of weeks ago to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. Thank you, again, for your warm welcome and hospitality. When I was with you I failed to thank your parish leader, Mrs. Lorrie Conway. As the Pastoral Coordinator for St. Thomas and Our Lady Star of the Sea, Lorrie is doing a marvelous job of leading your communities. This was not a role Lorrie asked for, but agreed to take on when asked by Archbishop Etienne. While I am grateful for the priestly presence Fr. Jim provides for you, in acknowledging my gratitude for him, I should have also thanked Lorrie for her leadership. I am sorry for this oversight and hope you will join me in keeping Lorrie in your prayers and thanking her for the leadership she continues to provide for St. Thomas Aquinas and Our Lady Star of the Sea. May God continue to bless all of you!

Congratulations to all of our First Holy Communicants!

A special Mass was celebrated on Saturday, May 1, 2021

May God continue to bless them and their families as they now
join us at the Table of the Lord!

**Tiffany
Angel
Anthony
Joesijah
Lucy
Joela
Anava
Sebastian
Max
Clark**



ADORATION UPDATE

TUESDAY EVENINGS:

Adoration is now available on Tuesday evenings immediately following the 6pm Mass. The Eucharist will be exposed in the monstrance on the main altar for three hours after Mass (6:30pm - 9:30pm). Feel free to come for any portion of this time to visit with the Lord. This is possible because we have a minimum of two committed adorers per hour. Please let the office know if you would also like to commit to a portion of this three-hour period of Adoration on Tuesday evenings.

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS:

Adoration is not yet available on Wednesday mornings but we are actively soliciting volunteers to commit to a portion of a three-hour period following the 8:30am Mass (9am - 12pm). Please contact the office if you can commit to a portion of this time. The plan is to gradually re-fill our schedule so that we can resume Adoration to the extent that adorers are available. We will begin Adoration on Wednesday mornings as soon as we have at least two adorers for each hour.

DID YOU KNOW?



A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE



The Annual Catholic Appeal is a combined effort of 169 parishes that supports a vibrant Catholic community in Western Washington! It funds Catholic social ministries, programs for youth and young adults, Catholic schools, and faith formation, plus administrative support for parishes such as liturgy guidance, evangelization, human resources, and much more.

73 Catholic schools educating more than 20,000 students • Catholic Newman Centers • Catholic Youth Convention
CYO athletics and camps • Faith formation • Hospital ministry • Immigrant ministry • Mental health ministry
Multicultural ministry • Northwest Catholic magazine • Parish support services such as human resources and liturgy guidance
Prison ministry • V Encuentro • Youth and young adult ministry and retreats

As you can see, your gift makes a big impact on the lives of others, and gifts of any amount are welcome! Please consider a gift of \$1 a day (\$365), or 5% more than your gift last year.

THANK YOU

www.archseattle.org/acadonate



AGA-B3-E

Opportunities to Serve in the St. Thomas Liturgical Ministries

Is God calling you to get involved and serve? Please pray about it and consider joining one of our ministries below:

- **Readers:** proclaim the Word from the ambo during Mass
- **Ushers:** greet everyone with a smile and help them find a seat
- **Sacristans:** prepare the sanctuary, vestments, vessels for Mass
- **Altar Server:** serve at the altar during weekend Masses.
(Must have received your First Holy Communion to qualify.)
- **Livestream Tech:** operate software and installed camera to stream Masses and special events to folks at home and in the overflow space in the hall.

**These are great ways to get involved at the parish, meet new people and build life-long friendships. These positions are crucial to the life of the parish.
Your help is needed and valued.**

Requirements: Must be a confirmed Catholic in good standing (except Altar Servers). Training provided. Must take the online COVID training. Some positions also require Safe Environment training as well. The classes and training are not long.

**Please contact the office for more information,
office@stthomascamas.org or 360.834.2126**





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

Sunday, May 09, 2021

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

See through God's eye

God does not see as we see, the prophet Isaiah reminds us. To harness the divine perspective, native peoples of western Mexico wove yarn on crossed

sticks to represent the eye of God (*ojo de Dios*), which sees in four directions and in all elemental mediums: earth, wind, fire, and water. A God's eye became the portal through which God views the supplicant, or through which those who pray might share the divine vision. Sharing a God's-eye perspective on the world remains the goal of every believer. Practice seeing others as our compassionate God sees them.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48; 1 John 4:7-10; John 15:9-17 (56)*. "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever . . . acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

Monday, May 10, 2021

MEMORIAL OF DAMIEN DE VEUSTER, PRIEST

Pray for those who heal

The story of Saint Damien de Veuster, a Belgian priest who missioned to quarantined lepers in Hawaii and died of the disease, is extraordinary—although often echoed these days as legions of medical professionals all over the world put themselves in harm's way to treat the sick and dying of COVID. Father Damian is a "martyr of charity," and we've been blessed with multitudes of fearless, generous heroes like him who've expended themselves physically and emotionally to get us through this pandemic. Give thanks to God for our modern martyrs of charity and ask for Father Damian's intercession to keep them safe and send them spiritual strength.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 16:11-15; John 15:26-16:4a (291)*. "And you also testify, because you have been with me from the beginning."

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Cultivate an appreciation of rural traditions

Though they've disappeared from most modern calendars, two older Catholic observances converge today. One is the petitioning of the "Ice Saints"—Boniface of Tarsus, Pancras, and Servatius—so named because their feasts fall during what were believed in some northern nations to be the last days of spring when a cold snap might damage spring plantings. The other observance, beginning on the Tuesday before Ascension Thursday, is known as the Minor Rogation Days. These two, along with the Catholic observance of Ember Days, are religious celebrations more commonly tied to the rhythms of rural life. They include the blessing of fields for a good harvest and prayers for good weather. Learn more at .org.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 16:22-34; John 16:5-11 (292)*. "His household rejoiced at having come to faith in God."

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

MEMORIALS OF NEREUS AND ACHILLEUS, MARTYRS;

PANCRAS, MARTYR

Religious freedom is a timeless concern

Sometimes it is difficult to relate to the martyrs of the early church because their lives are so different from our own. Nereus and Achilleus were Roman soldiers who had participated in carrying out persecutions of Christians. In a "miracle of faith," they were converted and died their

own martyred deaths in the late first century. Pancras was a 14-year-old martyr of the same era who was beheaded because he publicly affirmed his faith in Jesus Christ. On this Easter weekday, give thanks for the ability to freely worship and pray for those around the world who do not enjoy such freedom.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 17:15, 22—18:1; John 16:12-15 (293)*. "But when he comes, the Spirit of truth . . . will guide you to all truth."

Thursday, May 13, 2021

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Rise to the occasion

Today's Feast of the Ascension gives wide recognition to a rather complex idea—that Christ both ascended to heaven *and* remains with us. In fact, we get a taste of heaven when we unify ourselves with Jesus in spirit and action. Saint Augustine taught "although he ascended alone, we also ascend, because we are in him by grace." From attending Mass to aiding the needy, on this feast day we can all take a step toward unity with Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians 4:1-13 or Ephesians 1:17-23; Mark 16:15-20 (58)*. "So then the Lord Jesus . . . was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right hand of God."

Friday, May 14, 2021

FEAST OF MATTHIAS, APOSTLE

Abstinence makes the faith grow stronger

Although self-denial is celebrated in all major religions as a virtue, the value isn't so much in the practice as in the motivation. For Christians the virtuous motivation for abstinence of food, drink, or particular desires comes from love. We deny ourselves for God's sake and for the sake of others. Saint Matthias, patron of alcoholics, encouraged abstinence as a way to grow closer to God. He kept his focus on his vocation to spread the gospel and let little distract him from his purpose. What can you do today to keep your focus on love?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 1:15-17, 20-26; John 15:9-17 (564)*. "This I command you: love one another."

Saturday, May 15, 2021

EASTER WEEKDAY

Honor the forces of reconciliation

Pope Saint John XXIII taught that wars are never justified. Pope Saint John Paul II wrote to President George W. Bush that the Iraq War was unjust. Pope Benedict XVI questioned whether any war could be called just. Pope Francis, speaking in Hiroshima during his 2019 visit, repeated the positions of the previous popes. Christians face a dilemma, wanting world peace but also needing some protection from those who don't think the same way. The church recognizes a need for the military. But the task of the military should be to maintain peace and set the conditions for reconciliation. On this Armed Forces Day, pray for all our military service members. They have a difficult job.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Acts 18:23-28; John 16:23b-28 (296)*. "For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have come to believe that I came from God."

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