

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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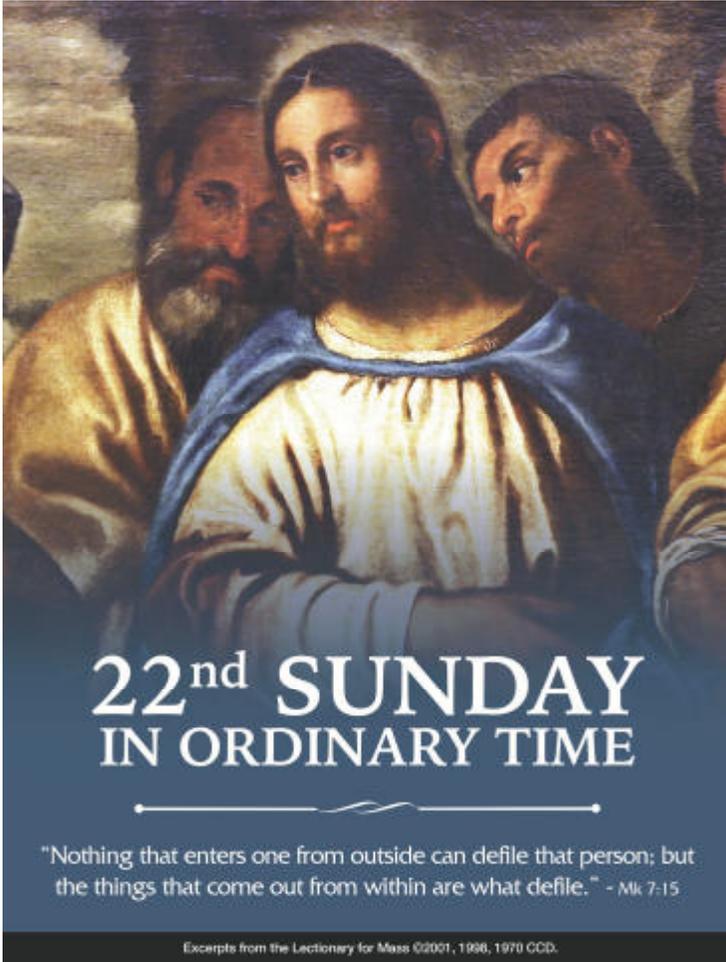
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AUGUST 29, 2021



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:30am & 11:00am

Daily Masses

Tuesday: 6:00pm

Wed-Sat: 8:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday after the 6:00pm Mass and

Saturday after the 8:30am Mass

or by appointment with Fr. Jim

PRIVATE PRAYER

The church is open for private prayer

Monday through Friday: 9:00am - 4:30pm

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesdays after 6pm Mass until 9:30pm

Actively expanding hours; contact office

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:

- **Labor Day Holiday, Monday, Sep. 6. Parish office closed.**
- **Online registration for fall Faith Formation is open.** Please register via the links on the parish website and join us for in-person classes on Sunday mornings beginning in September.
- **Emergency Relief** Second Collection for Haiti, Sep. 4 & 5
- **Faith Formation Kick Off!** Sep. 12
- **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, Sep. 14, Mass at our Holy Cross cemetery at 6pm
- **Bethlehem Hand Carved Olive Wood Sales** after all Masses, Sep. 25 & 26



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



From the desk of Lorrie Conway

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Animal behavior fascinates me. I take special interest in observing some of the instinctive behaviors that happen on the farm and marvel at the miracles of why animals do what they do. For instance, the sheep always seem to flock together. They seem to be consensus-model thinkers and generally work as a team in whatever they do. When one decides to go out and graze, the rest seem to follow. There is never one leader, they just seem to function as an effective workgroup. The goats tend to be a bit more independent and hierarchical. There is always a matriarch, and she whips everyone into shape with her firm, but loving, control. Despite their independence though, I marvel at how the goats always, throughout their entire lifetime, sleep in family groups. We will always see clusters of sisters snuggled up in a group together even when they are nearing their end of life, they still are drawn together as family. A true display to the value family holds throughout a lifetime—even in the animal kingdom.

Over the past number of weeks, I have watched an interesting behavior that has given me an opportunity for some personal reflection. Several weeks ago, we started a fencing project on the farm. Everything seems to take us longer to do these days, so this has been a project that has spanned over many weeks. Early in the project, we removed an electrified cross-fence separating two areas of the doe pasture. The section had a gate in the center which allowed us to move the animals into one section and close them off from the other section, or if left open, allowed them to move between the two pastures. When we took the electric wire down, we took the gate off the hinges, but have not had an opportunity to remove the two gate posts yet, so they remain. As we have been working outside, I have watched how, despite being very bright animals, and despite no longer having any barriers, the goats have continued to use the space between the two gate posts to move back and forth between the two sections of pasture. Essentially, the entire pasture is open to them, but as they move from one side to the other, they continue to use the small section that was 'safe' before we removed the wires.

In today's Gospel, we hear about how Jesus is questioned by the Pharisees and scribes, about why the disciples were not following the tradition of the elders. Jesus responded saying that the man-made traditions, the way things had always been done, was not what ensures goodness.

You disregard God's commandments and cling to what is human tradition.

Mk 7:8

The observation about how the goats continue to use the 'gate' because that is what they have always done makes me think about my own behavior and how at times, I will do things because they are my habit or tradition rather than looking for alternatives that may produce a better result. How often have I not done something because I perceived a painful barrier that may not actually exist the same way the goats use only the gate area because they perceive the electrified fence that isn't there any longer? How often have I done something simply because it is the way I have always done it without reflecting on the effort and asking if I am really doing this to the best of my ability for the glory of God, the same way the goats take the longer path to the gate posts rather than exploring a new path that might be more direct and effective? Life is about navigating situations that may have

uncomfortable barriers and as Catholic Christians, we are called to face those uncomfortable barriers with charity, humility, and kindness.

This week, I am going to give special attention to going outside the gate posts, letting go of the human tradition and facing the situations that have been uncomfortable barriers in the past. My guess is that I may find that someone has taken down the fences and a whole new route of possibilities has been opened to me. Maybe you have a similar situation in your life, and this will inspire you to do the same.

In Christ+

Lorrie

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PASTORAL COORDINATORLorrie Conway, ext. 208
PRIEST.....Rev. Jim Mylet, MM, ext. 205
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE.....Ted Meany, ext. 215
PA FOR LITURGY & MUSIC.....Kristin Yoshimura, ext. 212
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION.....Denice Twyman, ext. 202
ADMIN ASSISTANT..... Terese Dayton, ext. 203
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

Sept 6 Labor Day Holiday, parish office closed
Sept 12 Faith Formation Kick Off!
Sept 14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Mass at 6pm, Holy Cross Cemetery

Piano accompanist needed here at St. Thomas, for 3 vigil Masses a month and one Sunday a month. Must have proficient keyboard skills. Stipend available.

To audition and apply, send resume to kristin@stthomascamas.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Sun	Aug 29	8:30am	Walter & Jeannette Jacoby+
		11:00am	Pro Populo
Mon	Aug 30	No Mass	
Tue	Aug 31	6:00pm	Norman Bray+
Wed	Sep 1	8:30am	Mark Carpenter+
Thu	Sep 2	8:30am	Wendy Morehead+
Fri	Sep 3	8:30am	Terese Dayton
Sat	Sep 4	8:30am	
		5:00pm	Raphael & Dorothy Straughan+
Sun	Sep 5	8:30am	Pro Populo
		11:00am	Armando Corral Sr+ & Armando Corral Jr+



THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS for August
Intention for Evangelization - The Church:
 Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

We are so grateful for those who advertise in our bulletin and make this publication possible. Please give them your support and business!
 This week we want to highlight:
Anctil Heating & Cooling
 Thank you for helping support our parish communications!

AQUINAS GUILD
 Hooray, Hooray, it's the Guild's Meeting Day! We will meet Wednesday, September 1st after Mass in the **Parish Hall**. Masks are required so please wear your most Festive Mask for the occasion. Social hour starts at 9:00 am and the meeting begins at 9:30 am. We are so looking forward to seeing you all again in person. Meet the new officers and catch up on all our projects. See you there!
The Aquinas Guild is all the women of St. Thomas Aquinas parish. We are a voluntary association for religious, social and benevolent purposes to serve our Church and our community. No dues are collected.

MASSES AT ST. THOMAS *Updated*
A general dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation continues to remain in place due to the pandemic.
 Washington State removed most of its Covid-19 restrictions on Jun 30 and the Archdiocese has provided updated guidance. Here is a summary of how this impacts Mass at St. Thomas:
General guidance:

- Please stay home if you are not feeling well.
- Please wash your hands frequently.
- Please respect the section designated for those who wish to remain socially distanced (in the middle of the right side).
- Please know that masks are **now mandatory** regardless of vaccination status.

Mass

- The 8:30am Sunday Mass will continue to be live streamed for those who cannot be with us in person (visit the parish Facebook page (an account is not required; recordings available on our Vimeo channel).
- Holy water is available.
- Continue to fill in all available pews from the front of the church so later arrivals do not have to hunt for a space.
- Collection will be taken during Mass.
- Offertory procession will take place during Mass.
- Communion:
 - Come forward in two simultaneous lines from each side
 - Receive the Eucharist on the hand or on the tongue
 - Precious Blood will not yet be distributed
 - Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be assisting
- Congregational singing is expected to be restored soon.

 Please help us spread the word!

CONSIDERING SEPARATION OR DIVORCE?
 Wait! There is an alternative. Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi) has brought healing to tens of thousands of troubled marriages worldwide. Your situation may seem hopeless, but there is always hope, and you are not alone in your struggle. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for our upcoming VIRTUAL program on Sept. 16-19, 2021, call Mark and Ronnie at 206-706-2608 or go to www.helpourmarriage.org.

SISTER PARISH NEWS
 Good news from Uganda! The most recent lockdown was lifted! Travel between districts has opened up, however schools and churches remain closed. Nyamwegabira Parish continues to give food to the elderly and vulnerable in the parish, especially those who are unable to farm. If you would like to contribute to relief efforts, donations can be sent to the office. Please note that it is for the Sister Parish.
Thank you to all who donated to our sister parish! The funds and items will be much appreciated by Mary, Mother of the Church parish in Uganda. The religious articles will be distributed to first communicants, and confirmandi at our sister parish.
Thank you to all who participated in the sister parish prayer vigil.
 Please contact the office if you have any questions.

Congratulations

to Isabella who was Baptized
last Sunday at St. Thomas Aquinas.

May God continue to bless her and her family!



EMERGENCY COLLECTION FOR HAITI

**Special appeal for the U.S. Bishops
Emergency Disaster Fund
to support Haiti after the Earthquake
and Tropical Storm Grace**

**Second Collection
Sept. 4 & 5, 2021**

DONATE NOW



JV EnCorps Recruitment Postings: 2021-22



Looking for Ways to Serve Our Community?

Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps, a program of JVC Northwest, facilitates fulfilling opportunities for service, community, and spiritual formation for adults 50+ who are committed to social and ecological justice. In addition to part-time volunteer service, members meet monthly online or in-person, creating spiritual community through shared reflection. Our values are rooted in the Catholic Ignatian tradition, and JV EnCorps is an inclusive and welcoming community of folks from all faith perspectives.

Already engaged in service through your parish ministry or a local nonprofit organization? JV EnCorps could be the perfect way for you to add additional support, reflection, and personal growth to your current volunteer service.

Learn more about what JV EnCorps service is like:

[JV EnCorps Spotlight: Patty Christopher \(Bend, OR\)](#)

[JV EnCorps Letter: Jay Lyman \(Portland, OR\)](#)

Program begins in September. Applications accepted throughout the year. For more info and to apply, visit www.jvencorps.org.

40 days for Life Campaign

September 22—October 31

Help save lives by praying for an end to abortion. Please visit our website for more information.

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/local-campaigns/vancouver/>

If having trouble signing up online or if you have any questions, feel free to contact Gerry Parmantier, 360-831-7542, or email gerry1968@q.com.

"O Jesus, never let me be so blind as to think I can see the limits of Your Mercy."





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

Sunday, Aug 29, 2021

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Purity is not an abstinence test

Many of us who grew up in a moralizing culture were taught to imagine purity as having mainly to do with chastity. In which case, our aim was higher than the almost-but-not-quite perfection you might get from Ivory Soap, which years ago advertised itself as 99 and 44/100 percent pure. We may therefore be astonished that, according to the apostle James, purity in religion has something to do with how we respond to the abandoned in this world. Think charity, not chastity, to bump up your purity percentile.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8; James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (125).* "Religion that is pure . . . is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction."

Monday, Aug 30, 2021

Remember your name

After being baptized with water, Catholics are anointed with oil and these words are said over them, "As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body . . ." That means we share in those offices of Christ. Those are big roles—how to live up to them? Priests worship and make offerings to God, prophets speak the truth and live the gospel, royalty leads and takes care of others. If you remind yourself regularly of the sacred titles you were given at Baptism, how might that help you fulfill your promise?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431).* "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Tuesday, Aug 31, 2021

Hope works

Today, in Poland, it's the Day of Solidarity and Freedom—a modern Independence Day celebration after years of oppressive Soviet rule. In the 1980s, labor activist Lech Walesa helped stoke the flames of democratic social change. But it was Poland's favorite son, Pope John Paul II, who provided the spark. In his 1979 papal visit, John Paul II gave the people an electric hope that change was possible. "Let the Spirit descend and renew the face of the Earth. This Earth," he said. With Labor Day nearly here, remember how solidarity and workers' rights are cornerstones of Social Teaching.

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432).* "They were all amazed and said to one another, 'What is there about his word?'"

Wednesday, Sep 01, 2021

Living waters run deep

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation celebrated today "offers to individual believers and to the community a precious opportunity to renew our personal participation in this vocation as custodians of creation," says Pope Francis, who elevated this day in 2015 with the publication of his encyclical on the care of creation, *Laudato Si'*. As we move past August, Water Quality Month, be particularly mindful of your stewardship over the precious resource of clean drinking water. May all of us "come to the water" together as we care for our common home.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433).* "I must proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, because for this purpose I have been sent."

Thursday, Sep 02, 2021

Get unstuck

In today's gospel Simon Peter is so overcome by his own sinfulness, he tells Jesus to go away from him. What exactly is "sinfulness"? Lots of actions and inactions fall into that category, but the essence of Catholic teaching on sin is that it separates us from God. Selfishness, violence, and other sins drive a wedge between us and God. Peter knew that instinctively. Remove that wedge by asking God for forgiveness, and ponder what you can do to free yourself to reconcile a relationship that has become estranged.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434).*

"Jesus said to Simon, 'Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.'"

Friday, Sep 03, 2021

MEMORIAL OF GREGORY THE GREAT, POPE,
DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Keep it all in balance

It's never easy to find the right balance between sitting quietly and attentively on the sidelines and joining in the scrum of life's adventures. Our life of prayer helps us to discern how best to hold these together and to respond with love for ourselves and the common good. Gregory was a Benedictine monk of the late sixth century and loved his life as a contemplative. Yet, when called upon to take the helm of a church suffering from the fall of Rome and the plague, he stepped up and found his calling expressed in new ways through prayer, caring for those in need, and leading compassionately. Find the right balance between action and contemplation.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 5:33-39 (435).* "In him all the fullness was pleased to dwell."

Saturday, Sep 04, 2021

The fruits of creation for all of creation

It's interesting to note that in the story of Jesus' hungry disciples eating the grain from a farmer's field, the objection raised by the Pharisees is not that they took the grain, but that they did so on the Sabbath. In fact, eating grain or produce from a neighbor's farm while passing through was permitted by Jewish law (Deuteronomy 23:25-26), provided one did not carry off any surplus. It was considered a common courtesy and obligation of charity to share the abundance of creation with one's neighbor. Perhaps we can embrace that same ethic in our own stewardship of the abundance God has entrusted to us.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436).*

"While Jesus was going through a field of grain on a sabbath, his disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating them."

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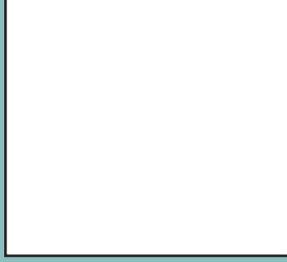
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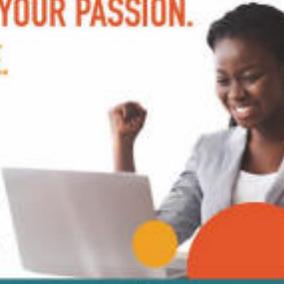
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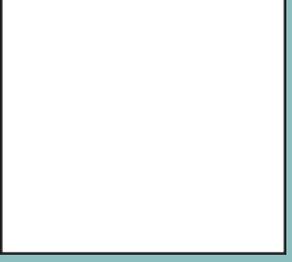
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