

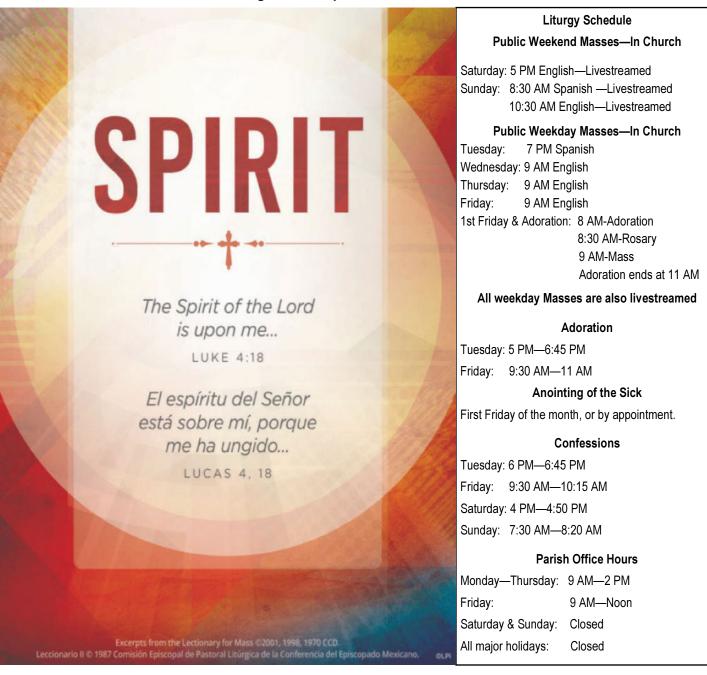
ST. THOMAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

4415 S. 140TH ST, TUKWILA, WA 98168 206.242.5501

WWW.SAINTTHOMASTUKWILA.ORG

Under St. Thomas' patronage, our parish aspires to evangelize our world through the beauty of our Liturgical worship; the goodness of our lives empowered by the Holy Spirit and ordered towards holiness in community; and conforming our minds to the Truths of Scriptures and Tradition.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 23, 2022
Tercer Domingo Del Tiempo Ordinario, 23 de Enero de 2022





The Joy of Mercy

Three years ago in April, I had the privilege of making a pilgrimage to Poland. The pilgrimage was an incredibly blessed experience for me and I thoroughly enjoyed learning more about St. John Paul II, the "spark" that came from Poland, according to St. Faustina.

While on the pilgrimage, I started re-reading St. John Paul II's second encyclical which is titled "Rich in Mercy." It is a beautiful document that reflects on the gift of God's mercy. At the end of the document there is a strong plea for the Church to always recognize her mission to proclaim the mercy of God in Jesus Christ. This mercy heals, restores, and brings us back into right relationship with God and with one another. St. Faustina tells us that we will never have peace without recourse to God's mercy.

The lack of mercy we see so prevalent in our world today has led us to be cold and indifferent to one another. When people fall into sin and make mistakes we see how the media and other powerful people rise up to condemn and cancel them out. This unmerciful behavior leads people to despair and depression because they think they are the sum of their failures and there is no hope for them to learn from their mistakes and start anew. An authentic encounter of God's mercy in Jesus Christ always renews the gift of hope and helps us build a more just and peaceful world. We are all sinners in desperate need of God's mercy.

Our first reading from the Book of Nehemiah shows what happens when people encounter God's mercy. The people were weeping because they had grown so distant from their faith and the covenant God had made with them. There was a spirit of disbelief that they could be restored and return to the Lord. Nehemiah speaks a word of blessing over them and reminds them of the "good news" that God was extending a hand of mercy and inviting them to return with their hearts. An encounter with the mercy of God always leads to rejoicing!

In the Gospel reading, Jesus announces that He is the anointed one sent forth to proclaim liberty to the people in darkness. At first the people are intrigued by Jesus' words. Sadly, a horrible twist takes place and a hardness of heart comes over them and they then reject His proclamation and wish to hurl Him off the cliff.

The Lord is inviting us to be messengers of His mercy and to experience the anointing of the Holy Spirit to help people find hope amidst their struggles and failures.

Here is a powerful reminder of this truth which St. John Paul II delivered to the young people at World Youth Day in Toronto in 2002.

"We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son."

Let us show forth this truth by experiencing and sharing God's mercy with those around us.

In Christ, Fr. Jim Northrop ~ Pastor

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EMERGENCY HELPLINE NUMBERS

Suicide Crisis Hotline: 206-461-3222

Mental Health Hotline: 1-866-789-1511

Teen Link: 1-866-833-6546 / 206-461-4922

Crisis Connection: 1-866-427-4747

Child Abuse: 1-866-363-4276

Domestic Abuse: 1-800-562-6025

National Domestic Violence: 1-800-799-7233

WA State Domestic Violence: 1-844-762-8483

New to St. Thomas? Welcome! Learn more about our diverse and vibrant community by visiting our website at www.saintthomastukwila.org. Registration forms are online, in the narthex of the Church, and/or in the parish office. Please place all completed parish registration forms in the collection basket or mail it in.

Bulletin Notices: The article deadline is 12 PM (Noon) on the Friday a week before the weekend you wish it to appear (8 days in advance). Notices about parish events or items of interest to the parish are welcome, however posting cannot be guaranteed. Email bulletin articles/notices to mona@saintthomastukwila.org

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