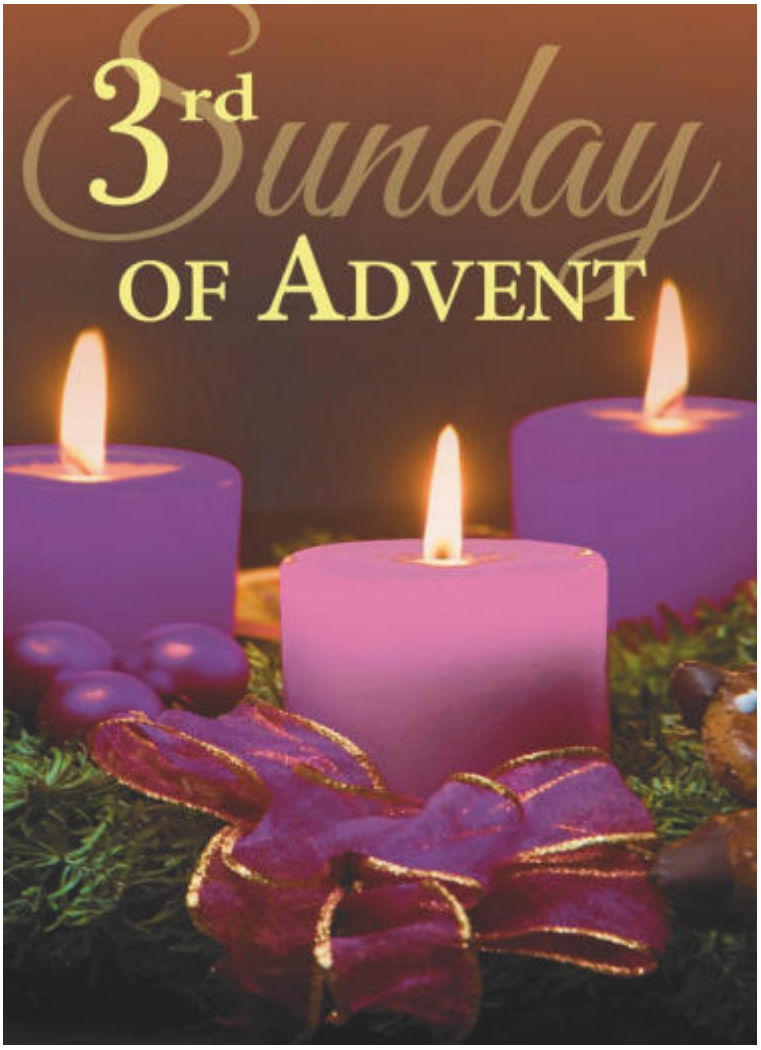
St. Thomas the Apostle

1580 St. Thomas Way
Lenoir City, TN 37772

December 12, 2021



MASSES

Saturday	5:00PM	7:00PM (Spanish)
Sunday	9:00AM	11:30AM
Daily	8:30AM	Monday – Friday
	9:00AM	Saturdays

SACRAMENTS

Anointing: Please notify the parish office if you know anyone is seriously ill or in the hospital. (We will not be notified by the hospital due to patient confidentiality).

Baptism: Arranged by appointment.

Confirmation: Requires 1 year study and one retreat.

Marriage: Requires a minimum 6 month notice.

Penance: Tuesdays at 6:00-7:00PM, Saturdays from 9:45-10:30AM or by request.

PARISH OFFICE

Telephone Numbers:
Office: 865-986-9885

Fax: 865-988-8230

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
(closed 12:00 – 12:30 PM for lunch)
Friday 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

PRIESTS

Pastor: Fr. Ray Powell, ext. 13
frray@sthomaslc.com

Associate Pastor: Fr. Julián Cardona, ext. 18
frjulian@sthomaslc.com

PARISH WEBSITE: www.sthomaslc.com

OUR PARISH STAFF

Parish Office 865-986-9885

Assistant to the Pastor:
Lupe Cortes, ext. 21
lupe@sthomaslc.com

Bookkeeper:
Deb Reinhart, ext. 11
deb@sthomaslc.com

Business Manager:
Joe Piscitello, ext. 12
joe@sthomaslc.com

Deacons:
Jim Bodine
David Egan 332-2991
John Krepps 288-0576
Sean Smith 584-3307 W

Facility Maintenance Coordinator:
Randy Tarpley, Ext. 22
randy@sthomaslc.com

Music Coordinator:
Marla Emerson, Ext. 17
marla@sthomaslc.com

Receptionist:
Brenda Gonzalez, ext. 10
Receptionist@sthomaslc.com

Religious Education:
Jill St. Yves, ext. 15
jill@sthomaslc.com

Arlene Maresca, ext. 15
arlene@sthomaslc.com

Youth & Family Ministry:
Joel Studer, ext. 14
jstuder@sthomaslc.com

MINISTRIES

Altar Servers:	Michele Pubillones	865-985-2663
Bereavement:	Barbara Brennan	865-458-8922
Columbarium Inquiries:	Deb Reinhart	865-986-9885
Council of Catholic Women:	Jan Scobey	407-701-8274
EMHC:	Michele Pubillones	865-985-2663
Friendship Kitchen:	Curt Sheldon	865-458-8510
Homebound:	Tim Geoghegan	321-482-1413
Knights of Columbus:	Jim Gold	484-885-0097
Lectors:	Michele Pubillones	865-985-2663
RCIA:	Edie Shanahan	865-308-3406
Respect Life:	Kay Sheldon	865-742-7557
Rosaries:	Pam Geoghegan	321-482-9668
Sacristans:	Michele Pubillones	865-985-2663
Stephen Ministers:	Tom Ringenbach	865-458-0915
St. Vincent de Paul:	Help Line	865-274-8697
Information -	Jeff Kirk	865-816-7765
Ushers:	Evelyn Edwards	865-250-6130

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Flowers: If you would like to donate altar flowers for a special occasion please call the parish office.

Ministry to those in home or care facilities: Please help us be attentive to those who are ill, homebound or in the hospital. Either the patient or a family member must notify the parish. Communion can be brought to the home or health-care facility by calling Tim Geoghegan at 321-482-1413.

Online prayer requests: Marianne Hartman 865-458-0936 mtnesttv@gmail.com

Parish registration: registration forms are available in the parish office or you may register online.

Pregnancy help center hotline: If you are facing a difficult or unplanned pregnancy, or need healing after an abortion, please call Catholic Charities Pregnancy Help Center "hotline" at toll free 877-990-4673.

Emergency Line: 865-227-2894

MASS INTENTIONS

Mon	Dec 13	@ 8:30AM	Souls in Purgatory Stanley Michalik (dec)
Tue	Dec 14	@ 8:30AM	Ann Fox (dec) Nick & Terry Saban (int)
Wed	Dec 15	@ 8:30AM	Melba Dwyer (dec) Martha Medina (dec)
Thu	Dec 16	@ 8:30AM	Souls in Purgatory Jack Cross (dec)
Fri	Dec 17	@ 8:30AM	Rosemarie Hunt (dec) Karen Spearing (dec)
Sat	Dec 18	@ 9:00AM	Brenda Gonzalez (int) Lupe Cortes (int)
Sat	Dec 18	@ 5:00PM	Elizabeth Schumaker (dec)
Sat	Dec 18	@ 7:00PM	Gerardo Garcia (dec) Martin Espinoza (dec) Maria Jesus Garcia (dec) Alicia Espinoza (dec)
Sun	Dec 19	@ 9:00AM	James Beveridge (dec) Frank Kaspar (dec)
Sun	Dec 19	@ 11:30AM	St. Thomas Parish

ATTENDANCE / ASISTENCIA

Sat	Dec 4	@	5:00	PM	228
Sat	Dec 4	@	7:00	PM	410
Sun	Dec 5	@	9:00	AM	320
Sun	Dec 5	@	11:30	AM	259
Total					1,217

PARISH OFFICE CLOSING

The parish office will close at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 16.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

"It's just not safe for you anymore," they say. "You could stay with one of us - or look into a place I know..."

You can't live on your own anymore. And it hurts. Giving up some of your independence, adjusting to new routines...

Let a Stephen Minister share this difficult time with you. To learn more about Stephen Ministry, contact Tom Ringenbach 458-0915.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

In today's Gospel John the Baptist says, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise…"

Christmas is a time of love and gift giving… please share your abundance by giving a gift to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul so that those who do not have clothes, housing, heat and food can share in the blessings of Christmas.

RCIA: CATHOLIC INQUIRY SESSIONS

Are you, a family member, or a friend interested in becoming Catholic? Our Inquiry sessions are held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM, in Room 118 downstairs in the Parish Family Life Center. You are welcome to join us at any time to begin your journey! Please contact Edie Shanahan, (865)308-3406 or ELS947@comcast.net for more information and/or to register for these sessions.

CIERRE DE OFICINA PARROQUIAL

El jueves 16 de diciembre la oficina cerrará a las 11:30 a.m.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT SUMMARY & FISCAL YEAR SUMMARY

NOVEMBER WEEKLY INCOME							
CHURCH SUPPORT	11/7	11/14	11/21	11/28	WeShare	Monthly Total	Fiscal YTD Total
Weekly Church Support Budget	$ 24,986	$ 24,986	$ 24,986	$ 24,986		$ 99,942	$ 426,970
Church Support (Offertory)	$ 25,404	$ 12,495	$ 11,462	$ 32,654		$ 114,239	$ 506,290
Monthly Online					$ 32,224		
Ahead/Behind Budget-Current						$ 14,297	$ 79,320

HOLY DAYS & HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 12 – Regular weekend Masses
5:00 AM – Mañanitas, Rosary & Procession
9:00 AM – English
11:30 AM – English

December 16 thru 23 – Celebration of Las Posadas in the Parish Family Life Center
7:00 PM, except on Saturday which will be after the Spanish Mass.

Friday, December 24 – **Christmas Eve** **(holy day of obligation)**
8:30 AM – No Daily Mass or Communion Service
4:30 PM – English
7:00 PM – Spanish
9:30 PM – English

Saturday, December 25 – **Christmas Day** and Regular Masses **(holy day of obligation)**
10:00 AM – English **Mass for The Nativity of the Lord**

Holy Family – December 25/26th - regular weekend Masses (normal Sunday obligation)

Sat:	5:00 PM – English	7:00 PM – Spanish
Sun:	9:00 AM – English	11:30 AM - English

Friday, December 31 – **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Vigil** **(not a holy day of obligation this year)**
8:30 AM – English

Saturday, January 1 - **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God** **(not an obligation this year)**
9:00 AM – English

Epiphany – January 1st/2nd – regular weekend Masses (normal Sunday obligation)

Sat:	5:00 PM – English	7:00 PM – Spanish
Sun:	9:00 AM – English	11:30 AM - English

IMPORTANT NOTE: During Advent, both priests will be available during our normal Confession times.

Tuesdays – 6:00 –7:00 PM
Saturdays – 9:45 – 10:30 AM

HORARIO DE MISAS PARA DÍAS DE PRECEPTO Y DÍAS FESTIVOS

Domingo 12 de diciembre
5:00 AM – Mañanitas (Cantos y Rosario en la iglesia)
9:00 AM – Misa regular en inglés
11:30 AM – Misa regular en inglés

Del 16 al 23 de diciembre – Celebración de Las Posadas en el Centro Parroquial
7:00 PM cada noche, excepto el sábado, que será después de la Misa

Viernes 24 de diciembre – **Noche Buena** **(día de precepto)**
8:30 AM – No habrá Misa; tampoco servicio de Comunión
4:30 PM – Inglés
7:00 PM – Español
9:30 PM – Inglés

Sábado 25 de diciembre – **Natividad del Señor** y Misas regulares **(día de precepto)**
10:00 AM – Inglés (Misa de la Natividad del Señor)

La Sagrada Familia - 25 y 26 de diciembre, Misas y obligación regular

Sáb:	5:00 PM – Inglés	7:00 PM – Español
Dom:	9:00 AM – Inglés	11:30 AM – Inglés

Jueves 31 de diciembre –**Vigilia de la Solemnidad de Santa María, Madre de Dios** **(no es un día de precepto este año)**
8:30 AM – Inglés

Sábado 1 de Enero - **Solemnidad de Santa María, Madre de Dios** **(no es un día de precepto este año)**
9:00 AM – Inglés

La Epifanía del Señor - 1 y 2 de enero, Misas y obligación regular

Sáb:	5:00 PM – Inglés	7:00 PM – Español
Dom:	9:00 AM – Inglés	11:30 AM – Inglés

NOTA IMPORTANTE: Durante el tiempo de Adviento, los dos sacerdotes estarán disponibles para escuchar Confesiones durante el horario regular:

Martes de 6:00-7:00 PM
Sábados de 9:45-10:30 AM.

FLOWERS BY THE TABERNACLE

The flowers by the Tabernacle this weekend are in loving memory of Andrew and Annabelle Monnerjahn from their daughter, Barbara Monnerjahn.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSING

December 24 thru January 3. We will return on Tuesday, January 4th.

DECEMBER BULLETIN DEADLINES

Please submit bulletin announcements by the following dates:

December 15 - for weekend December 25-26

December 21 - for weekend January 1-2

POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

You may have heard about a Synod happening in the church. What is a synod? Simply put, a synod is a meeting or assembly of church leaders. In October, Pope Francis began a three-year synodal journey of consultations and discernment, culminating with an assembly in October 2023 in Rome.

We are being offered a unique opportunity to participate in this! We want to know what you are thinking, and we are ready to listen. The key themes of this Synod are listening and discernment. We hope to achieve both in the process. To begin that, the Diocese of Knoxville has created an online survey, which we hope all parishioners, friends, and family will take the time to fill out. We are seeking feedback from all of East TN, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. (See link below) This is an anonymous survey which will give us valuable information for discussion. As a follow up to the survey, our parish will offer a number of Town Hall meetings, for further discussion. Please look for future notices about this. Thank you in advance for your comments, thoughts, and prayers.

Link to the survey: **https://synodsurvey.org/**

END OF YEAR GIVING REMINDERS

For a donation to be considered deductible in 2021, you must do the following:

Date the check in 2021,

AND

Check must either be placed in the collection basket or office by December 31 **OR** if the check is mailed, **it must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2021.**

Therefore:

Checks brought into the office in January (even if dated in December) will be NOT be deductible in 2021.
Checks mailed with a postmark in January (even if dated in December) will be NOT be deductible in 2021.

In both of these cases, the donations will be deductible in 2022.

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Support My Church and Save on My Taxes?! What's Better than That?
Want a way to boost your tax savings beyond the newly increased standard deduction? If you are 70 ½ or older, you can use your IRA to make a gift to your parish, school, diocese or ministry and save on taxes! Normally, a distribution from your IRA is taxed as ordinary income. However, federal tax law now allows you to make a distribution each year from your IRA to a qualifying charity and it is not subject to federal income tax.

Transfers must be made directly from your IRA administrator to a qualifying 501c3 charitable organization. For more information contact our parish office or your IRA administrator.

WeShare users
If you are changing your WeShare amount for 2022, you must go into WeShare to update the amount or call the office and ask for Deb to make that change in January. (Filling out a pledge form does not change WeShare amounts.)

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Loving, Learning and Living Our Faith!

Online Advent Retreat with Bishop Barron

As we enter the final days of Advent, consider the opportunity to journey through an 8-day Advent retreat online from Word on Fire and Bishop Robert Barron. Covering topics from Bethlehem to Angels to the Holy Family and Joy, each session includes a reflection, a video segment, and a challenge. It will be delivered via Flocknote each morning starting Thursday, Dec. 16. To sign up for this program, simply go to https://sthomaslc.flocknote.com/signup/75421 to register. Contact Warren Hunt at warrenhunt0820@gmail.com with questions.

A Christmas Gift for You!

St. Thomas the Apostle Church is pleased to continue to provide you a free subscription to **formed.org.** Entertaining movies, enlightening programs, inspiring talks and a great selection of ebooks – all at your convenience. There is something on **formed.org** for everyone in the family. The best Catholic content all in one place! Watch for recommendations and new program alerts from the Adult Faith Formation committee throughout the year.

It's so easy to get started:

Go to FORMED.org/sign up
Enter our parish zip code (37772) or parish name
Enter your name and email address

Devotional Books for Advent in the Narthex

Prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ with these popular and inviting annual guides.

"The Little Blue Book", six-minute reflections on the liturgical Sunday Gospels, will be available again this year. A longtime favorite, the gospels are coupled with a variety of thoughts, traditions, and customs of the Advent and Christmas seasons. Available in both English and Spanish, there is a suggested donation of $1 per book.

Additionally, this year the devotional, *"Waiting in Hope: Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas"* by Catherine Upchurch will be on hand in the narthex. During the especially busy Advent and Christmas seasons, this book offers brief, down-to-earth reflections that bring prayer and Scripture into everyday life to help readers grow in their understanding of the word of God. There is a suggested donation of $1 per book.

If you have questions on any Adult Faith Formation program or want to sign-up, contact Arlene Somers-Maresca in the parish office at arlene@sthomaslc.com or (865) 986-9885.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD RETREAT RETURNS TO ST. THOMAS

Want to grow in your faith along with fellow parishioners? The Light of the World retreat is coming back to St. Thomas, February 18 – 21, 2022 (Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday, and Monday evening). 40 seats will be available for this special time of teaching, fellowship, and community. Save the dates and register online at https://sthomaslc.flocknote.com/signup/74446

Light of the World
PARISH RETREAT

WIDOWS' SUPPORT GROUP

Whether you've been recently widowed or it's been awhile, you have a place with us. We are a special group of ladies who truly understand the journey you're on, and provide encouragement and companionship. This month, we will be gathering for our Christmas Traveling Teacups Get Together on Tuesday 12/14 at a location in Lenoir City. We have room for more ladies to join us. Each month we address matters of interest to our members. We also plan outings such as church activities, outside gatherings, patio lunches, volunteer opportunities, etc. For more information contact Angela Wichlinski, 865-567-6002.

WESHARE (ONLINE GIVING) RECURRING GIFT MATCH PROMOTION

You can help St. Thomas earn $1000 just by signing up as a **NEW** recurring donor with WeShare! For every first gift from a new recurring donor that is added between November 1 and December 31, 2021, WeShare will match that first gift, up to $50, with a maximum match of $1,000 per organization. To be eligible for the matching gift, more than one installment must be set-up and the first recurring gift must be processed through WeShare by December 31, 2021.

If you need help signing up, please call Deb Reinhart at 865-986-9885 ext. 11.

*****Please note, any new recurring setup before November 1st will not be counted.**

HORARIO PARA LAS MISAS

Sábado 5:00 PM 7:00 PM (Español) **Domingo** 9:00 AM 11:30 AM

Misa del día 8:30 AM Lunes – Viernes y Sábados a las 9:00 AM

HORARIO PARA LAS CONFESIONES

Martes 6:00-7:00 PM

Sábado 9:45 – 10:30 AM

HORARIO DE OFICINA PARROQUIAL

Lunes a jueves, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM **(cerrado 12:00–12:30 PM)** y viernes 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

CIERRE DE OFICINA PARROQUIAL

Viernes 24 de diciembre hasta el lunes 3 de enero del 2022. Regresaremos a la oficina el martes 4 de enero.

CHARLAS PRE-BAUTISMALES

Las charlas pre-bautismales se ofrecen el primer viernes de cada mes y se requieren dos charlas. Es importante anotarse por lo menos con dos meses de anticipación. Para más información, llame por favor a Brenda González al (865) 271-7828 o María Ríos al (865) 621-2608.

LÍNEA DIRECTA PARA EL CENTRO DE ASISTENCIA PARA EMBARAZOS

Si se enfrenta con un embarazo difícil o no planeado, o necesita sanación después de un aborto, llame a la "línea directa" de Caridades Católicas, Centro de Ayuda para Embarazos gratuitamente al 877-990-4673.

3-D-5-3 For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com 14-1501

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