

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Roman Catholic Church



8320 Old C.R. #54 New Port Richey, FL 34653 Phone 727-372-8600 Web Page: www.stanpr.org

Pastor: Rev. Eric Peters **Associate Pastor:** Rev. George P. Varkey

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Melvin Dunphy

STA Early Childhood Center: 376-2330; Bishop Larkin Catholic School (K-8): 862-6981

Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School: 857-2600



THE EPIPHANY *of the Lord*

*"Since from you shall come a ruler,
who is to shepherd my people Israel." - Mt 2:6b*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The Lord of the universe who revealed the star of Bethlehem to the Gentiles of the East so they could come and worship Jesus, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6) and King of Kings (Revelations 19:16), gives each one of us the same light of revelation to recognize and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to us. It is through the help of the Holy Spirit, who moves the heart and opens the eyes of the mind, that we are able to understand, accept, and believe the truth which God has revealed to us through his Son, Jesus Christ. In faith, the human will and intellect cooperate with grace. *"Believing is an act of the intellect assenting to the divine truth by command of the will moved by God through grace"* (Thomas Aquinas).

Excerpt from: Daily Scripture Readings and Meditations

Meditation
The Daily Path to Holiness
(from "My Daily Bread")

Christ:

My Child, live your daily life in My presence by trying to be constantly aware of My nearness to you. The more you strive to develop this virtue, the more I will help you to acquire it. With this grace you will grow in love and kindness toward others. Your faults will become smaller and less frequent and your goodness will shine before the world.

This daily labor for virtue requires a continual effort. You must go on trying, like a person swimming against the current. To stop trying even for a little while, is to lose ground. Without a determined and constant effort there will be no progress.

Do not be afraid of work, inconvenience or suffering. My way to Heaven was the way of prayer, work and suffering. My love is symbolized by the cross and My pierced heart. Let your love for Me use the same symbols. Live a life of prayer, work and suffering. As I chose to make personal sacrifices for you in My daily life, so too should you seek daily opportunities to make personal sacrifices for me.

Pray:

My Jesus, help me to become aware of Your nearness to me throughout the day. I do not wish to fail You. You want me to aim at the highest perfection. You said: "Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect!" That means I must never feel that I am good enough, no matter how virtuous I may become. I intend to start trying today to be more like You in everything I do. You are my Model because You also said: "He that sees Me, sees the Father also." You are the perfect image of Your heavenly Father. By imitating You, I shall become more God-like. My efforts will be much easier if I can become constantly aware of Your nearness to me throughout the day. Grant me this wonderful grace so that I may become what You desire, a true person of God. In this way, every moment of my earthly life will be a step toward Heaven's perfect life. *Amen.*

Readings for the Week of January 2, 2022

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/
Mt 2:1-12
Monday: 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25
Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44
Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
Mk 6:45-52
Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14, 15bc, 17/
Lk 4:14-22a
Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16
Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-6a, 9b/Jn 3:22-30
Next Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-4, 9-10/
Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 or, Is 40:1-5, 9-11/
Ps 104:1b-4, 24-25, 27-30/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/
Lk 3:15-16, 21-22
Weekend Readings are at (727) 372-8600

Mass Intentions
(for the week ahead)

Monday	8:00 a.m.	Tom Choi
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Ralph A. Garofalo
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Vocations
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	John Jack Gallagher
Friday	8:00 p.m.	Bernie DiNisio
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Mike Young
	6:00 p.m.	Andy & Dolly Leone
Sunday	7:00 a.m.	Leith & Nanette Novio
	8:30 a.m.	Thomas Mationg
	10:30 a.m.	Michael Geraghty
	5:00 p.m.	Parish Family

Mass and Devotions Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm and 6 pm
Sunday: 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am (*Contemporary*),
and 5:00 pm (*LifeTeen™*)
Daily Mass: 8:00 am Monday-Friday
Prayer Group: The 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month starting Sept. 13th and ending May 23rd.
Holy Rosary after 8:00 am Mass, Mon-Fri,
in Church
Marian Novena after 8:00 am Mass on Tuesdays
Benediction & Adoration: Thursdays at 3:00 pm until 6:45 pm
Reconciliation: Saturday 2:30-3:30 pm or by appt.

Parish Calendar

- Mon. 01/03 OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues. 01/04 9AM Rosary Makers;
6:30PM Core Team Life Teen Mtg;
6:45 Boy Scouts
- Wed. 01/05 9:15AM Legion of Mary;
10AM SVDP Meeting;
6:30PM Core Team Life Teen Mtg.
- Thur. 01/06 10AM Prayer Shawl Ministry;
3PM Benediction/Adoration;
6PM K of C Meeting;
7PM Bible Study
- Fri. 01/07 9AM Spiritual Motherhood of Priests
Apostolate
- Sat. 01/08
- Sun. 01/09 9AM Faith Formation;
6:15 Life Night

Christmas Video - *O Come All Ye Faithful*

In his 2021 Christmas video, Bishop Gregory Parkes shares Christmas hope and introduces a very special musical presentation. Multicultural choirs of the Diocese of St. Petersburg perform a beautiful rendition of the Christmas carol classic, *O Come All Ye Faithful*. Performances in English, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese and Latin.

To view, go to: <https://bit.ly/3Fi30QJ>.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS MEETING

Court Vincent de Paul #2172 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas will hold their regular meeting on 1/11/2022 at 6:30PM in the Youth Room of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. All Catholic women age 18 or older are invited to attend.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Linda Bergeron at 727-203-3498. We look forward to seeing you.

Parish Information

Office hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday.
Call for information.
Phone: (727) 372-8600
Website: www.stanpr.org
Prayer Line: (727) 372-8600
Emergency Number for Anointing of the Sick:
Nights and Weekends (727) 836-3211

Administration

Business Office Fax: (727) 376-7204
Asst. to Pastor/Staff Coordinator:
Cheralyn Quevedo - Ext. 111
Parish Bookkeeper: Cherise Amundson - Ext. 115
Bulletin Editor: Kate - Ext. 113

Parish Ministry

Faith Formation K-5: Jessica McIlveen - Ext. 132
Middle School (Edge) and High School (Life Teen):
Beth DeBella and Cliff Stodden – Ext. 131
Adult Formation: Michaela Meyers - Ext. 133
Music: Dan O’Hara - Ext. 128
Parish Nurse, Ministry to the Sick & Homebound:
Betty West - Ext. 116
Sacristan: Elizabeth Sheridan - Ext. 129
St. Vincent de Paul Society: Ext. 142
Ambassador: Mary Ellen Taylor - Ext. 144
Coordinator of Ushers: Ada DeFina

STA Early Childhood Center

Alicia Mumma, Director – (727) 376-2330
www.staecc.org

Food Pantry: Monday *and* Thursday
9:30am until 11:00am *and* 1:30pm until 3:00pm

Gift Store: *Open before and after Sat. 4pm and Sun. 10:30am Masses*

Parish Library: Open during office hours.

Offertory: December 18 & 19, 2021

Offertory:	\$12,747.45
Online Giving:	<u>\$ 3,912.00</u>
Total:	\$16,659.45

Thank you to our Parishioners and Visitors for your generous support!



Come & See!

Do you seek the face of God? We warmly invite you to visit a Lay Carmelite Community meeting to learn about Carmelite Spirituality. Our Lady Queen of Carmel LCC meets in room 4 of the parish center of St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church at 715 E. Orange Street in Tarpon Springs. Our next meeting will be Saturday, January 8th, following the 9 am mass.

For more information, contact Pat Mermelstein at 727-534-5729.

Catholic Days at the Capitol, February 1-2, 2022

Make the trip. Make a difference.

Join Catholics from around Florida as they gather in Tallahassee for Catholic Days at the Capitol. This annual advocacy event will be held on February 1-2, 2022. The event includes a briefing on key legislative proposals, a breakfast with the Bishops of Florida, legislative visits with the offices of state Senators and Representatives and the Red Mass of the Holy Spirit. This is a great way to bring your voice and your values to the political process. Learn more and register here: <https://www.dosp.org/life/catholic-days-at-the-capitol/>.

Catholic Women's Conference

Every woman is invited to attend Spirit FM's 7th Annual Women's Conference on April 2, 2022. It will be held at the Florida State Fairgrounds, and tickets are on sale through myspiritfm.com/womensconference.

Flyer/Graphic available at this link: <https://bit.ly/3psTB2j>.

Christ the King Parish, 821 S. Dale Mabry Highway, Tampa

Saturday, January 29, 2022

8:30 am (Mass) – 4:00 pm (Lunch included.)

Parishes and schools are invited to bring teams of 3-5 representatives to join us for this workshop as we learn how to better promote and foster vocations in our faith communities.

Please contact the Office of Vocations to RSVP or to find out more information. Ph. 727-345-3452 or by email: jp@dosp.org.

Promotional graphics available at this link: <https://www.dosp.org/parish-vocation-ministry-workshop/>.

Winter Concert Series

The WINTER CONCERT SERIES returns to ***Saint Mary, Our Lady of Grace***, 515 4th Street South in St. Petersburg, in 2022 after a one-year hiatus due to COVID.

The first concert will be held on **Sunday, January 9, 2022** at 3:00 pm, and is entitled, "Music Not Just for the Holidays!" The featured artists are FLUTE AMICI, a flute choir made up of professional flutists from the Tampa Bay Area.

The concert is one-hour, FREE, and open to all. For more information, see our website: stmaryolg.org, or call 727-896-2191 ext. 208.



A warm thank you to all of our parishioners who have donated money towards the beautiful flowers that adorn our church and parish center during this Christmas season. We are deeply grateful!

May God bless you!

What is a Synod?

A "Synod" can refer to the body of bishops who aid the Pope in listening to and guiding the Church or to a gathering to discuss challenges that the Church faces and to discern together how to move forward. The three main characteristics of a synod are: mutual listening, dialogue, and collective discernment. The main objective of a synod is journey together as the Pilgrim People of God towards holiness by responding to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Synod is an opportunity to reclaim our identity as a pilgrim Church that journeys together. It is a Church that listens to the Holy Spirit. The Synod process is rooted in an encounter with Jesus in the Scriptures and the liturgical life of the Church. It is inspired by an openness to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis recognizes the need for the People of God to live as a synodal Church, which consists of the following three essential components:

- 1) **Communion:** The conversations lead to conversion to Christ and commitment to active participation in the mission given by Christ.*
- 2) **Participation:** The people of God talk with and listen to one another about questions that matter.*
- 3) **Mission:** Our communion and unity exist for a common purpose inspired by the Holy Spirit.*

For the Synod to bear fruit, the following requirements need to be met:

- 1) Address basic questions together.*
- 2) Listen to the Holy Spirit.*
- 3) Remain open to the perspectives of other people.*
- 4) Nurture the fruits of the Holy Spirit over time.*

Synod Session: Prayer & Discernment

Location: St. Theresa Parish (Spring Hill)
Date: Saturday, February 19, 2022
Time: 9 AM



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us after all morning Masses

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Sunday, January 16th

Hosted by your Knights of Columbus Council #11497
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Knight's Korner **Knights of Columbus Council #11497**



Our Mission Statement

As Knights, associated with Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in New Port Richey, Florida, we strive to humbly serve our Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ; guided by His Word and teachings, inspired by our patron, Saint Thomas Aquinas, to Learn, Live, and Share the "Good News" through valiant acts of Charity, delivered in Unity, backed by a Fraternal commitment to each other as an order, to our Parish family and her neighboring communities, and to the nation we Patriotically stand to respect and protect. Vivat Jesus!

Did you know that you can become a Knight's of Columbus eMember right now by going to KofC.org and pressing Join Us? Be sure to select Council 11497 and we do the rest!

- Membership meetings are every first Thursday of the month and social meetings are every third Thursday of the month (unless announced otherwise)

Further questions contact our Grand Knight Larry C. Alaimo at 813-297-9968 or email to: lcalaimo@yahoo.com



Scholarships are Available to Attend Catholic Schools

Your child could attend a Catholic school with the help of a K-12 “Step Up For Students” Scholarship. If you qualify, receive an average of \$7,000 a year, per child for tuition and fees. Now, more families are eligible. For example, a family of four with an income of nearly \$100,000 annually may qualify. Dependent children of a reservist or active-duty member of the US Armed Forces may also qualify, regardless of household income. Learn more or apply today at www.SUFS.org/Catholic.

Scholarships for Children with Special Needs

Do you have a child with unique abilities? Schools in our Diocese accept the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities through “Step Up For Students.” Learn more at www.SUFS.org/Catholic.

Financial Assistance for Catholic Education

Are you looking for Catholic school options for your child but need financial assistance? Our schools accept the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities through “Step Up For Students.” Find out if your child qualifies at www.SUFS.org/Catholic.

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