

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

Roman Catholic Church



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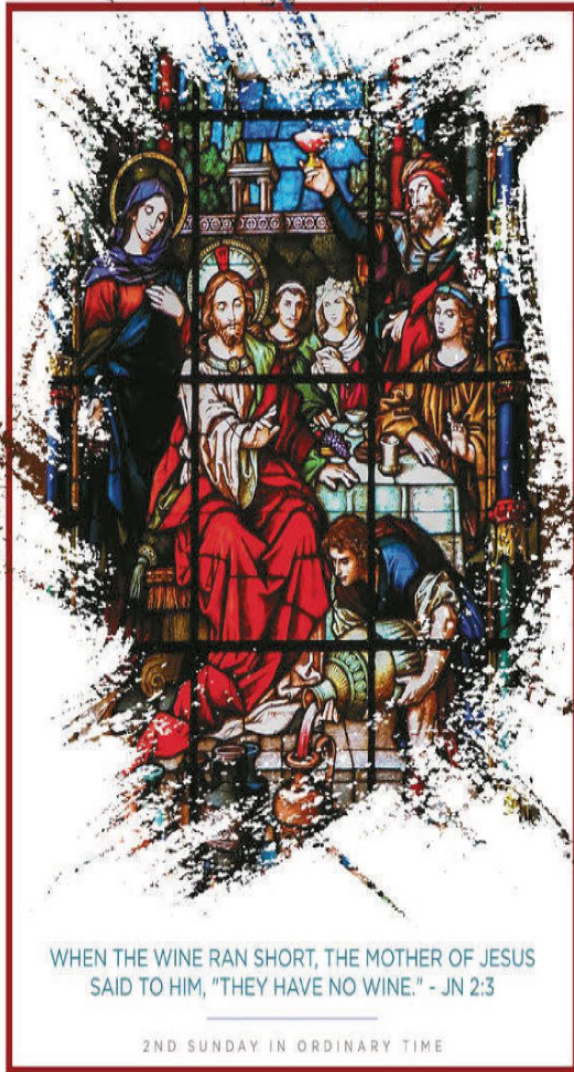
Pastor: Rev. Eric Peters **Associate Pastor:** Rev. George P. Varkey

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 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 16, 2022



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Life is not meant to be a burden. Believe it or not, God actually wants us to be happy! In fact, the wedding feast at Cana shows us that God even puts His blessing on our happiness. It is okay to celebrate the wonder of ourselves and others. Life is good. It is always interesting to note that Jesus saves the good wine until last. You would think it would be the other way around. The superb quality of Jesus' wine points to the superior quality of life we find in Christ. It is not a life of burdens but a life of wonder and delight! In Christ, we are lifted from the superficial and mundane to a life of purpose, hope, and love.

God is with us through the long haul, through the challenges and sorrows as well as the successes and accomplishments. In spite of the fact that we often wander from the path, God's celebratory delight in us remains.

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Learning, Living and Sharing the Good News

Meditation
A Higher Love
(from "My Daily Bread")

Christ:

My Child, the more you desire the glory of Heaven, the less will you care for the good things of this life. The glory and praises of people are all too short. They are imperfect and dissatisfying in one way or another. Your greatest praise and glory on earth will come not from people, but from a good conscience.

When you have the grace to live this truth, you will look peacefully on many things which trouble the worldly person. You will see others esteemed and honored, but you will go unnoticed. Others will succeed in their efforts, while you taste failure and disappointment. Others will speak and impress their hearers, whereas your words will make little or no impression. Others will ask and obtain their request, but you will ask in vain. Others will be trusted with some responsibility, and you will be overlooked as though incapable.

True, your human pride will rebel at such treatment. To bear it in silence is no mean accomplishment. Yet, I want you to draw closer to My heart and taste a bit of My power and love. Then will you rise above the desires and ambitions of this earthly life. You will disregard your own conveniences and inconveniences. You will be so eager to do more for Me that you will take with joy what you once avoided and despised. As you grow in this higher love for Me, you will come to forget all self-consideration.

Readings for the Week of January 16, 2021

- Sunday:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-3, 7-10/1 Cor 12:4-11/
Jn 2:1-11
- Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16b-17, 21 and 23/
Mk 2:18-22
- Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2,
9-10/Mk 3:1-6
- Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-13/
Mk 3:7-12
- Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19
- Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/
Mk 3:20-21
- Next Sunday:** Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8-10, 15/
1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Weekend Readings are at (727) 372-8600

Mass Intentions
(for the week ahead)

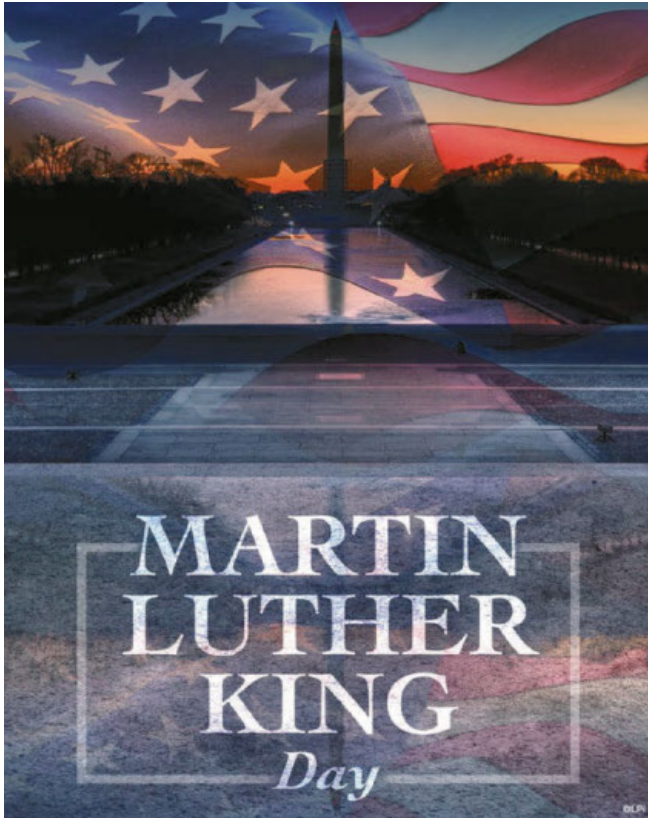
- Monday 8:00 a.m. Jack Seibert
- Tuesday 8:00 a.m. Sophie & Chester Rakowski
- Wednesday 8:00 a.m. Vocations
- Thursday 8:00 a.m. Beth Breedlove
Living Mass
- Friday 8:00 p.m. Beth Breedlove
Living Mass
- Saturday 4:00 p.m. Patricia Szczepanski
6:00 p.m. Larry Tedstone
- Sunday 7:00 a.m. John Chrispino
8:30 a.m. Lois Schaller
10:30 a.m. Nancy O'Hara
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. 01/17 Martin Luther King Day-Office Closed
6:30PM Life Teen Core Team Meeting
- Tues. 01/18 9AM Rosary Makers;
6:45PM Boy Scouts
- Wed. 01/19 9:15AM Legion of Mary;
10AM SVDP Meeting;
5:15PM Faith Formation K-12;
4PM Traditional Choir;
7PM RCIA
- Thurs. 01/20 10AM Prayer Shawl Ministry;
3PM Benediction/Adoration;
6PM Girl Scouts; 7PM Cont. Choir;
7PM Bible Study;
7PM K of C Social
- Fri. 01/21 8:45AM-4PM Adoration;
9AM Spiritual Motherhood of Priests
Apostolate
- Sat. 01/22 7PM K of C Pro-Life Dinner Dance
- Sun. 01/23 9AM FF;
6:15PM Life Nite



As we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Day, let us pray that all Americans may embrace his belief that all people should be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

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: January 8/9, 2022

Offertory:	\$12,441.56
Online Giving:	<u>\$ 4,147.00</u>
Total:	\$16,588.56

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





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ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the United States in its companion decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Since that time, millions of children have lost their lives and millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

On **Friday, January 21**, we will observe the annual “**Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**.” We are called to observe this day through prayer and penance. Benediction will be prayed after the 8 AM Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our Church until 4 PM. Please join us in prayer. Sign-up sheets for Prayer Captains will be available in the narthex on 15/16 January.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops also sponsors a nationwide novena called “**9 Days for Life**.” Join thousands of Catholics nationwide praying the novena, January 19-27. Sign up today at www.9daysforlife.com.

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, compassionate help is available. Visit HopeAfterAbortion.com.

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



MINISTRIES IN ACTION

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG | CATHOLIC MINISTRY *Appeal*

TWO RESOURCES: *The Center of the Family*

“ The 5th Encuentro and *Ministry with Families 101* have been very great resources, providing motivation for our ministry, Matrimonio, Diálogo, Seguimiento or Marriage Dialogue Support (MDS).

One of the main themes of the 5th Encuentro is accompaniment, especially in the family. MDS stands out as a support group for marriages and the family, and by participating we solidify our mission to accompany couples and families, especially those going through difficulties.

We really liked “The Stages of Family Growth Life Cycle” from *Ministry with Families 101* and applied it to our ministry. Through it, we learned that each stage of marriage is different, and the family is constantly changing. It is important to know what stage we are in and what challenges as well as rewards we can obtain, learn and apply to our spiritual life, recognizing that our spiritual life has its challenges and rewards. For example, when we are new parents our needs as a couple are totally different than when we are in the empty-nest stage.

We feel that through our ministry, we are on the path that our Church wants, supporting existing marriages and couples toward sacramental marriages and guiding not only marriages towards God but also the children that are part of the marriage, the future of our Church. We know now that it all starts in the center of the family. ”

-Deacon Elix and Lucy Castro
MDS Ministry

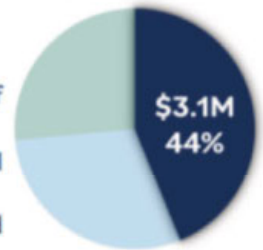
“The experience of love in families is a perennial source of strength for the life of the Church. ”



-Pope Francis, Amoris Laetitia 88

ENCOUNTERING GOD and NURTURING our SPIRITUAL LIFE

Marriage & Family Life and Ministry to Multicultural Communities are two of 11 diocesan ministries that embrace God’s call to serve, and offer all who seek God an opportunity to encounter Him and enrich our spiritual lives, fostering our response to God’s call to serve. Through the *Catholic Ministry Appeal*, this group of ministries will receive \$3.1 million of the total \$7.1 million appeal goal to carry out their good works.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE about these ministries!



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



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Any Questions call Tony Fontana (727) 372-6912

St. Thomas Aquinas Knights of Columbus Council 11497

<http://uknight.org/CouncilSite/?CNO=11497>

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