

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 20, 2022



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

What makes Christians different and what makes Christianity distinct from any other religion? It is *grace* - treating others, not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated - with loving-kindness and mercy. God is good to the unjust as well as the just. His love embraces saint and sinner alike. God seeks our highest good and teaches us to seek the greatest good of others, even those who hate and abuse us. Our love for others, even those who are ungrateful and selfish towards us, must be marked by the same kindness and mercy which God has shown to us. It is easier to show kindness and mercy when we can expect to benefit from doing so. How much harder when we can expect nothing in return.

Give and forgive - the two wings of prayer
Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) describes Jesus double precept ***to give and forgive*** as two essential wings of prayer:

Excerpt from: Daily Scripture Readings & Meditations

7th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." - Lk 6:36

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

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Learning, Living and Sharing the Good News

Meditation

The Supernatural Virtue of Hope

(from "My Daily Bread")

Christ:

My Child, one of the most wonderful virtues in your soul is the virtue of hope. I placed it there as a tiny seed at your baptism. It was to grow and help you through life's trials and difficulties. This is the virtue which makes you desire Me as the Highest Good. It inspires you to look forward to Heaven's unending joys, and confidently expect from Me whatever help is needed to gain eternal life.

This virtue calms all fears and worries about your salvation. It helps you look to My power, see My goodness and rely upon My love. It makes you firm and confident when doubts and difficulties tempt you to turn away from Me in despair. Supernatural hope makes you expect My help in your daily efforts to live a good life.

This heavenly gift of hope, however, is incomplete without your sincere daily effort to fulfill My Will in your daily life. He who expects to gain eternal happiness without doing his part is guilty of the sin of presumption.

Hope makes prayers more effective. I cannot refuse one who firmly and confidently expects My assistance in his real needs. The man of hope wants only what is really necessary for his final success. Even when he prays for an earthly favor, he wants it only if it will improve him or the person for whom he prays. The perfection of this virtue is a complete self-surrender to My wisdom in all matters.

The supernatural virtue of hope gives vision to the mind, strength to the will, courage to the heart and endurance to the body. It makes one sure of victory because he relies upon Me, the all-knowing, all powerful, all-loving God. This wonderful virtue brings a sense of security to the soul. Work out your salvation in hope and fear not, for I shall never fail you.

Readings for the Week of February 20, 2021

Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8-10, 15/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-6/Mt 16:13-19

Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-11/Mk 9:38-40

Thursday: Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-20/Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16

Next Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-16/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

Weekend Readings are at (727) 372-8600

**Mass Intentions
(for the week ahead)**

Monday	8:00 a.m.	Alexander DiLallo
Tuesday	8:00 a.m.	Deceased Members of the Perrone Family
Wednesday	8:00 a.m.	Vocations
Thursday	8:00 a.m.	Antony Emmanuel
Friday	8:00 p.m.	Valdemar Raun
Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Ralph Mandarino
	6:00 p.m.	Steve Hodge
Sunday	7:00 a.m.	Parish Family
	8:30 a.m.	Lari Lyons
	10:30 a.m.	Frank O'Hara and Scott Findlay
	5:00 p.m.	Margaret Sexton

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. 02/21 OFFICE CLOSED
Happy Presidents' Day!
- Tues. 02/22 9AM Rosary Makers;
6:45PM Boy Scouts
- Wed. 02/23 9:15AM Legion of Mary;
4PM Traditional Choir;
5:15PM FF Parent Session;
5:15PM FF K-5;
5:15PM Edge 6-8;
7PM RCIA
- Thurs. 02/24 3PM Benediction/Adoration;
6PM Girl Scouts;
6PM Life Teen Core Team Meeting;
7PM Contemporary Choir;
7PM Bible Study
- Fri. 02/25 9AM Spiritual Motherhood of Priests
Apostolate
- Sat. 02/26
- Sun. 02/27 9AM Faith Formation;
6:15PM Life Nite

**Mandatory Usher Meeting at 3:30pm
on Thursday March 3rd
in Parish Center.**

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION HELP AVAILABLE

IRS trained and certified volunteers will prepare and electronically file your income tax return for free at one of twelve sites in Pasco County. Refunds and Earned Income Tax Credits can be received in as little as ten days using Direct Deposit.

You can make an appointment on-line at www.unitedwaypasco.org or by calling 727-845-3030 Monday to Friday from 10 until 2.

Free tax preparation help will be available to low- and moderate-income wage earners and retirees from January 25, 2022 until April 18, 2022.

Service will be provided for homebound individuals upon request, subject to availability of volunteers.

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

Admin. Asst: Meghan Snyder - Ext. 112

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

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: February 12/13, 2022

Offertory: \$12,630.11

Online Giving: \$ 3,919.00

Total: \$16,549.11

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



LAKE WOBEGON STORIES WITH FATHER ERIC!

I would just like to invite you to join me for a lovely evening of story-telling on either Saturday, March 12th or Saturday, March 26th. At both shows I will tell the same stories, so as to give more of you an opportunity to hear them, and both shows will be from 7:00-9:00pm in our parish center.

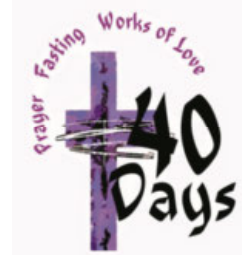
The stories I will be telling are tales from Lake Wobegon by the great story-teller, Garrison Keillor, which I memorized word-for-word thirty years ago (and you'll be happy to know that I've re-learned all of them just for you!) The stories are delightful, with plenty of humor, pathos, twists and drama.

Tickets are just \$10 and can be purchased at the parish office during the week and in the narthex of the church after all the masses on the weekend, and I do hope you will come and bring a friend with you for this great time!



Ash Wednesday is March 2nd

Mass Times are:
8:00am, 10:00am and 7:00pm



Catholic Daughters of the Americas Annual Card Party Thursday March 17th from 12pm until 3pm

Join us for lunch, fellowship, card games and fun.
\$12.00

We will have raffle baskets, 50/50 and fun door prizes.
For tickets or questions, feel free to contact Linda @ 203-3498
or Amanda @ 858-2833

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GIFT SHOP: For Saturday 4pm and Sunday 10:30am Masses

USHERS: For all Weekend Masses

If you are interested in volunteering, please leave your name and telephone number with Cheralyn at 372-8600, ext. 111.

Thank you!

Help the poor by helping our St. Vincent de Paul Conference!

Jesus calls us to help our neighbor. You could help by giving 10 minutes of your time each month. On the second full weekend after all Masses, our St. Vincent de Paul Conference accepts cash and check donations from parishioners departing the church. Upcoming weekends: 3/12-13, 4/9-10, 5/14,15, and 6/11-12. If you are able to help regularly or as your schedule permits, call our Conference President Jack Timmins at 727-834-8952. Thank you and God bless you!



The Spiritual Motherhood of Priests Apostolate invite you to pray for the Priests and Seminarians of our Diocese. Please remember to pray for all of our Priests. Below are the names for the week.

O Jesus, eternal Priest,
keep your priests within the shelter of Your Sacred Heart,
where none may touch them.

Keep unstained their anointed hands,
which daily touch Your Sacred Body.

Keep unsullied their lips,
daily purpled with your Precious Blood.

Keep pure and unearthly their hearts,
sealed with the sublime mark of the
priesthood.

Let Your holy love surround them and
shield them from the world's contagion.

Bless their labors with abundant fruit and
may the souls to whom they minister be
their joy and consolation here and in
heaven their beautiful and everlasting
crown. Amen.

02/20 For All Seminarians

02/21 Rev. Viet Ngyen

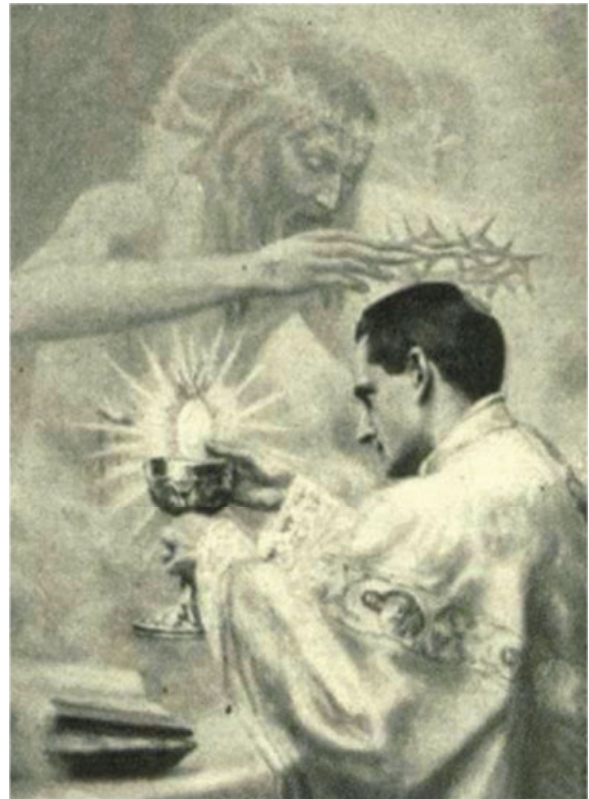
02/22 Rev. Edwin Palka

02/23 For Vocations to Priesthood
and Religious Life

02/24 Rev. Bill D. Wilson

02/25 Rev. Kevin Yarnell

02/26 Rev. Tamil Jeyaraj



“You are a Priest forever,
in the line of Melchizedek.”

-Pslm 110:4



LENTEN FISH FRYDAY

Join us Friday after 5PM

- \$10 Adults/\$5 Children
- Generous Portions
- Eat in Parish Hall, take-out or drive up!
- Fried or baked fish w/ sides of the day
- Tea, lemonade, water and dessert
- Cheese pizza w/ drink and dessert \$3
- Soft drinks available for purchase \$1
- We accept Cash, Check and Credit Cards







FRIDAYS, MARCH 4TH THRU APRIL 8TH



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Regulations on Fasting and Abstinence

The dual disciplines of fasting and abstinence have a long history in the Catholic Church. Going back to the early Church, the purpose behind the custom of self denial is not punishment; it is to simplify our lifestyles so that we create a certain emptiness. In this way, freed from all distractions, we are able to hear and respond to God’s continued call to conversion and holiness.

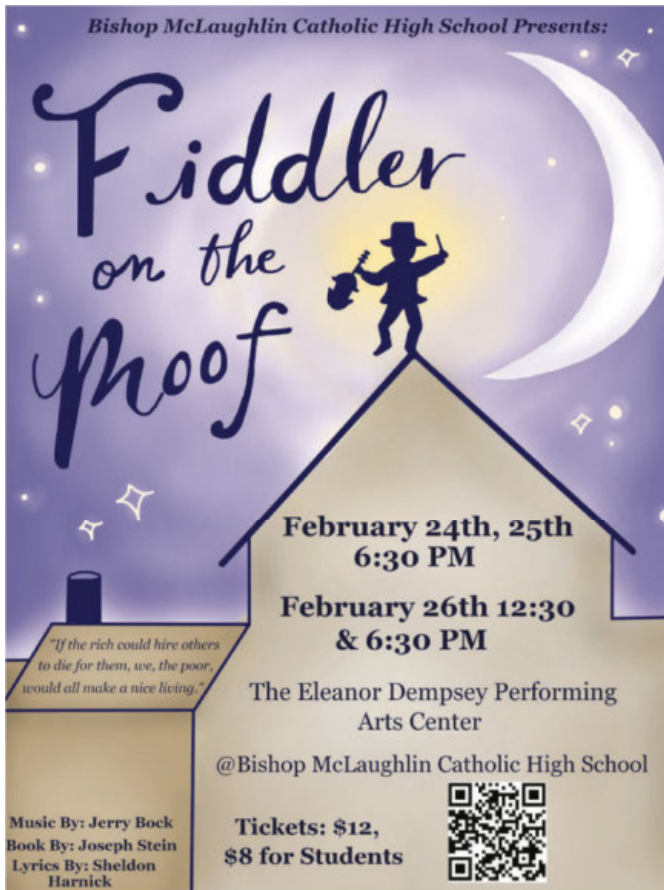
- + **Fasting** is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 to 59 years (inclusive). On days of fasting, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one’s needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed.
- + **Abstinence** from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older. Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent, and Good Friday are days of abstinence.

Note: If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self denial that are suitable to their condition.

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School Presents:

Fiddler on the Roof




February 24th, 25th
6:30 PM

February 26th 12:30
& 6:30 PM

The Eleanor Dempsey Performing Arts Center
@Bishop McLaughlin Catholic High School

Music By: Jerry Bock
Book By: Joseph Stein
Lyrics By: Sheldon Harnick

Tickets: \$12,
\$8 for Students




"If the rich could hire others to die for them, we, the poor, would all make a nice living."

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 St. in Tarpon Springs on the first Saturday of each month following the 9 am mass.

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

UNBOUND!

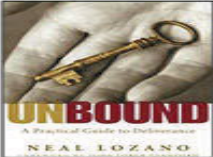


Experience greater freedom from the influence of evil in your life and a greater fullness of life, won for us by Christ's death and resurrection.



Presented by Matt Lozano
Saturday February 26, 2022
10:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
 Check In begins at 9:40 a.m.


WE RECOMMEND READING THE BOOK UNBOUND BEFORE ATTENDING



Despite our best efforts, many of us struggle with the same sins time and again, leaving us feeling hopeless in our search for freedom. Matt Lozano will lay out a strategy for you to overcome Satan's influence in your life and how to live in the freedom of God's plan for your life. Discover freedom from sin, understand the Biblical model of deliverance, stay free from sin, guide others to freedom and much more.

Registration is \$25.00. Bring a brown bag lunch.
To register online: <https://divineprovidence.org/events>
For information email: info@divineprovidence.org or call 727-797-7412

To be held at St. Timothy Catholic Church
17512 Lakeshore Rd., Lutz, FL 33558
Optional 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Mass



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