

# 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

*Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 27, 2022*



### SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

#### *Thinking the best of others*

The Lord Jesus wants to heal and restore us to wholeness, not only for our own sake alone. He also wants us to be his instruments of healing, pardon, and restoration for others as well. What can hinder us from helping others draw near to Jesus the divine Physician? The Rabbis taught: "He who judges his neighbor favorably will be judged favorably by God." How easy it is to misjudge others and how difficult it is to be impartial in giving good judgment. Our judgment of others is usually "off the mark" because we can't see inside the other person, or we don't have access to all the facts, or we are swayed by instinct and unreasoning reactions to people. It is easier to find fault in others than in oneself. A critical and judgmental spirit crushes rather than heals, oppresses rather than restores, repels rather than attracts. "Thinking the best of other people" is necessary if we wish to grow in love. And kindness in judgment is nothing less than a sacred duty.

### 8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD.

OLPI

*Excerpt from: Daily Scripture Readings & Meditations*

## *Learning, Living and Sharing the Good News*

***Meditation***  
***Man's Main Hope***  
*(from "My Daily Bread")*

**Christ:**

My Child, as long as you are on earth, you will have to make use of food, rest, medicine, recreation, companionship, etc. However, do not make the mistake of considering these natural things as the only remedies of your various needs. Otherwise you will place too much hope in them, and expect more from them than they can give you.

Only from Me may you expect perfect, all-satisfying happiness. Be wise and place your greatest hope in Me. I am the Maker and Preserver of all things. Nothing could help you if I did not give it the power to do so. Whether or not you realize it, I am your Highest Good. Without Me there is no lasting good, no enduring happiness.

If you hope in Me above all else, you will not be disappointed. I shall not fail you in what is truly best for you. Do not place too much hope in any person or thing on earth. Use whatever you can honestly obtain to improve your earthly life, but do not live as though this were the only life.

I am your Creator and Redeemer. Place your main hope in Me. Follow My Will as perfectly as you can, and when earthly friends and remedies fail you, do not despair. I shall not fail you. Stand by Me, and I will help you reach the all satisfying success of Heaven.

**Readings for the Week of February 27, 2021**

- Sunday:** Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-16/  
1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45
- Monday:** 1 Pt 1:3-9/Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10c/  
Mk 10:17-27
- Tuesday:** 1 Pt 1:10-16/Ps 98:1-4/Mk 10:28-31
- Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6b, 12-14 and 17/  
2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-4, 6/Lk 9:22-25
- Friday:** Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-6b, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1- 6/Lk 5:27-32
- Next Sunday:** Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-15/  
Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

**Weekend Readings are at (727) 372-8600**

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

- |           |            |                           |
|-----------|------------|---------------------------|
| Monday    | 8:00 a.m.  | Eva Carter                |
| Tuesday   | 8:00 a.m.  | Robert Whalen             |
| Wednesday | 8:00 a.m.  | Vocations                 |
|           | 10:00 a.m. | Salvatore LoPresti        |
|           | 7:00 p.m.  | John Guzina               |
| Thursday  | 8:00 a.m.  | Linda Rains               |
| Friday    | 8:00 a.m.  | Linda Rains               |
| Saturday  | 4:00 p.m.  | Edward & Elizabeth Keller |
|           | 6:00 p.m.  | Angelica Miano            |
| Sunday    | 7:00 a.m.  | Leith & Nanette Novio     |
|           | 8:30 a.m.  | Parish Family             |
|           | 10:30 a.m. | Mary Moffit               |
|           | 5:00 p.m.  | Brigida Perez             |

**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. 02/28 6:30PM Prayer Group  
 Tues. 03/01 9AM Rosary Makers;  
 6:30PM Life Teen Core Team Mtg;  
 6:45PM Boy Scouts  
 Wed. 03/02 9:15AM Legion of Mary;  
 10:00AM SVDP Meeting;  
 4PM Traditional Choir;  
 5:15PM FF K-5;  
 5:15PM Edge 6-8;  
 7PM RCIA  
 Thurs. 03/03 10AM Prayer Shawl Ministry;  
 3PM Benediction/Adoration;  
 6PM K of C Meeting;  
 6PM Life Teen Core Team Meeting;  
 7PM Contemporary Choir;  
 7PM Bible Study  
 Fri. 03/04 9AM Spiritual Motherhood of Priests  
 Apostolate;  
 5PM Fish Fry  
 Sat. 03/05  
 Sun. 03/06 9AM Faith Formation/Parent Session;  
 6:15PM Life Nite

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

**Ash Wednesday, March 2nd  
 Mass Times are:  
 8:00am, 10:00am and 7:00pm**

### **Lenten Prayer Commitment**

Please join the Spiritual Mothers of priests this Lent in praying for our priests. Beginning on February 26<sup>th</sup>, we will have the name and Parish address of the priests and seminarians of our Diocese in the Narthex, please take one and pray for him during Lent. We've included the address so that you can send a card during Easter to let him know you have been praying for him.

## Parish Information

Office hours: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday-Friday.  
 Call for information.  
 Phone: (727) 372-8600  
 Website: [www.stanpr.org](http://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](http://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 19/20, 2022**

Offertory: \$14,063  
 Online Giving: \$ 4,331  
 Total: \$18,394

**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!

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!

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS MEETING**

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Ct. St. Vincent de Paul #2172 will meet in the Community room of St. Thomas Aquinas on Tuesday 3/8/2022 at 6:30 PM. Please come to the office door by 6:15 PM so that we can start on time. If you have any questions or need more information please contact Linda Bergeron at 727-20-3498. We look forward to seeing you there.



**Lent is Coming!**

JOIN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY - AND MORE THAN 12,000 CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES - IN A TRANSFORMATIVE LENTEN JOURNEY WITH CRS RICE BOWL. PICK UP YOUR FAMILY'S CRS RICE BOWL FROM THE NARTHEX ON ASH WEDNESDAY OR MARCH 5/6 WEEKEND. DURING THE 40 DAYS OF LENT, WE WILL REFLECT ON GLOBAL HUNGER AND TAKE ACTION TO HELP OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS IMPACTED BY THIS INJUSTICE.

**We Can Do Our Part**

Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more

## 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.

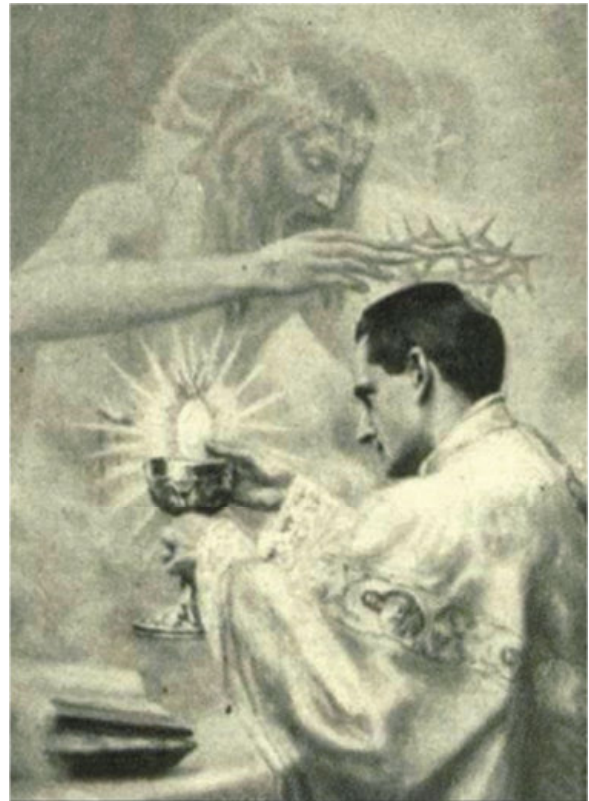
Keep unsullied their lips,  
daily purpled with your Precious Blood.

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.

02/27 Rev. Brian Fabiszewski  
02/28 Rev. Richard F. Rosin, SDB  
03/01 Rev. Roberto Cartaya, Seminarian  
03/02 Rev. For Vocations to Priesthood &  
Religious Life  
03/03 Rev. Michael Smith  
03/04 Rev. Ryan Boyle  
03/05 Rev. John S. Hays



“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



**TASTY!!**





**FRIDAYS, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> THRU APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>**



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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.

**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!

**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](http://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.

**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](http://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](mailto:lcalaimo@yahoo.com)

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