

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 27, 2022



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

What's worst than being separated from your home, loved ones, and friends? The pain of separation can only be surpassed by the joy of the homecoming and reunion. When God commanded his people to celebrate the Passover annually, he wanted them to never forget what he did for them when he freed them from oppression and slavery in the land of Egypt and brought them back to their promised homeland which he gave as a sign of his immense love and favor. At the end of their wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, Joshua, the successor to Moses, led the people in celebrating the Passover meal after they had safely passed over the River Jordan to their promised homeland (Joshua 5:9-12).

This crossing over from a land of slavery and oppression to a land of promise and freedom is a sign that foreshadows the true freedom and homecoming which the Lord Jesus has won for us in his kingdom. Through his victory on the cross the Lord Jesus has *delivered us from the dominion of sin and darkness and transferred us to his kingdom of light, truth, and forgiveness* (Colossians 1:13-14). God offers this freedom to all who believe in his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. God does not desire the death of anyone (Ezekiel 18:23). That is why he sent us his only-begotten Son to set us free from slavery to sin, Satan, and death and to restore us to everlasting peace, joy, and abundant life with our Father in heaven.

Excerpt from: Daily Scripture Readings & Meditations

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'"
- Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

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

OLPI

Learning, Living and Sharing the Good News

Meditation
Daily Growth in Charity
(from "My Daily Bread")

Christ:

My Child, without the virtue of charity, all other virtues lose their supernatural value. What good will it do you to believe in Me, or to hope in Me, if you do not love Me?

This love must be shown in a sincere daily effort to please Me, no matter how disagreeable the task at hand. In fulfilling My Will, you achieve your highest perfection and your greatest good. In all things I lead you toward what is truly best for you.

When you consider that I have given you everything that you are and have, you should not find it difficult to love Me. A frequent consideration of My numberless benefits will help you draw closer to Me in gratitude. This gratitude will bring you a desire to please Me more in your daily life. If you follow this desire, you will be proving your love for Me.

As you advance in this love of gratitude, I shall grant you still higher graces. I shall help you understand Me better. As you come to know Me more intimately, you will appreciate more and more My boundless goodness. You will gradually surrender yourself more completely to My Will. You will no longer permit yourself to resent My Will, but you will finally be convinced that I seek only what is good for you. Your love of gratitude will be transformed into a higher love, the love of friendship.

In this higher level of perfection, you will rise above yourself. You will no longer sympathize with your unreasoning desires when they seek to disregard My Will. You will control your feelings toward the people in your daily life. What good you do them, you will do it for the best reason -- you will do it for Me.

Readings for the Week of March 27, 2022

- Sunday:** 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/
Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- Monday:** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12a, 13b/
Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13c-14, 17-18/
Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-23/Jn 5:31-47
- Friday:** Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-21, 23/
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9b-12/Jn 7:40-53
- Next Sunday:** Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-8/Rom 8:8-11/
Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Weekend Readings are at (727) 372-8600

Mass Intentions
(for the week ahead)

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|--|
| Monday | 8:00 a.m. | Mary Hoban |
| Tuesday | 8:00 a.m. | Ralph Rebain |
| Wednesday | 8:00 a.m. | Vocations |
| Thursday | 8:00 a.m. | Ouseph Joseph |
| Friday | 8:00 a.m. | Paul Urner |
| Saturday | 4:00 p.m. | Michael & Margaret O'Shea
and Michael J. O'Shea |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Jennie Braccolino |
| Sunday | 7:00 a.m. | Parish Family |
| | 8:30 a.m. | Roseann Esposito |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Frank Zaccaro |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Anthony Talotta |

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. 03/28 1PM SVDP Meeting;
6:30PM Prayer Group Meeting
- Tues. 03/29 9AM Rosary Makers;
6:45PM Boy Scouts
- Wed. 03/30 9:15AM Legion of Mary;
4PM Traditional Choir;
5:15PM FF K-5;
5:15PM Edge 6-8;
7PM RCIA
- Thur. 03/31 3PM Benediction/Adoration;
5:30-6:30PM Lenten Confessions;
6PM Girl Scouts;
6PM Life Teen Core Team Meeting;
7PM Contemporary Choir;
7PM Bible Study
- Fri. 04/01 9AM Spiritual Motherhood of Priests
Apostolate;
5PM Fish Fry
7PM Stations of the Cross in Church
- Sat. 04/02
- Sun. 04/03 9AM Faith Formation;
6:15PM Life Nite

Holy Week Schedule



The Beautiful Liturgies of Holy Week:

Holy Thursday, April 14- Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7pm

Good Friday, April 15- The Passion of Our Lord and Veneration 3pm; Stations of the Cross 7pm

Holy Saturday, April 16 - Blessing of the Easter food at noon

The Easter Vigil, April 16 - will be celebrated at 8:30pm beginning with the "Lighting of the Easter Fire" outside in front of the church. Please note this is the only mass offered on Holy Saturday throughout the Universal Church.

Easter Sunday Masses, April 17 are at 6:30am in the church, 8:30am in the church, 10:30am in both the church and parish center.

Please note: no 5pm Mass on Easter Sunday.

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: March 19/20, 2022

Offertory: \$11,657.40

Online Giving: \$ 4,111.00

Total: \$15,768.40

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



Solidarity

One of seven themes at the heart of **Catholic Social Teaching** is “**Solidarity**.” We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers, wherever they may be. Loving our neighbor has global dimensions in a shrinking world. At the core of solidarity is the pursuit of justice and peace. Pope Paul VI taught that “if you want peace, work for justice.” The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers. Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict.

COVID-19 Crisis in India. **Catholic Relief Services** has partnered with the Diocesan Social Service Society and the Catholic Health Association of India to provide much needed protective equipment and supplies to front-line health care workers in India.

Your participation in our **Lenten CRS Rice Bowl** campaign supports this and other programs to alleviate suffering and assist people in need throughout the world.

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.





JOIN US FOR AN
EASTER
EGG HUNT
& FAMILY FUN

APRIL 10TH, 2022
 FROM 11:30 - 2:00

St. Thomas Aquinas
 Bounce House | Crafts | Face Painting

\$3 Hot Dog, Chips, & Drink
 Proceeds to benefit Vacation Bible School

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.

3/27 Rev. Msgr. Austin Mullen

3/28 Rev. Henry Riffle

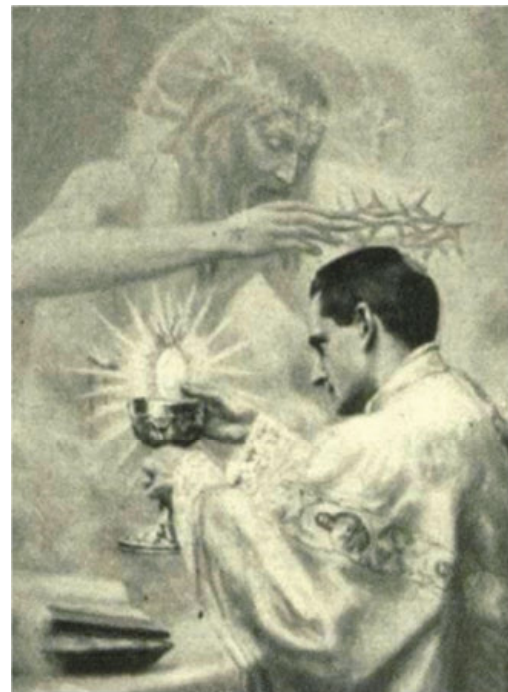
3/29 Rev. Thomas Spillet

3/30 For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

3/31 Rev. Ignatius Tuoc

4/1 Rev. Anthony Coppola

4/2 Bishop Gregory Parkes



“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 4TH THRU APRIL 8TH



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75% OF ALL PROCEEDS
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USHERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers for the following masses: 6pm Saturday; 7am, 8:30am, and 5pm on Sunday. The usher is usually the first person who greets you when you attend mass. If you enjoy smiling and making people feel comfortable, then this is the position for you.

You may be asking yourself, what does this entail and am I committed every single Saturday or Sunday? We'd love to have you there all the time, but if you have another commitment just let your captain know that you will be away so they can get a substitute to fill your spot. Here are the requirements for being an usher:

Opening doors and greeting the parishioners and visitors, helping them find seats, taking up the collection baskets and handing out the bulletins after mass, and assisting at the various celebrations of the mass. We usually have sign-up sheets for the following:

Communal anointing services, communal Penance, Holy Days of Obligation, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Christmas and Easter Vigil.

Main ingredients for becoming an usher: a welcoming smile, kindness to all young and elderly, respectful to each other and be willing to give one hour of your time.

If you can say yes to any of the above ingredients, we would love to have you come on board and join us. Thank you and God Bless you.

Please call Cheralyn Quevedo, Asst. to Pastor at 727-372-8600, Ext. 111

Eucharist Ministers Needed

*for Nursing Homes, the Homebound, and Hospital
We can schedule according to your availability. If interested, contact
Betty West, Parish Nurse, at 727-372-8600, ext. 116*

A Solemn Time of Preparation for Elect & Those about to Receive Sacraments at the Easter Vigil

And a time for the rest of us to check our Lenten progress as well!

The First Scrutiny: The Woman at the Well

- ✦ When Jesus shows her that He knows her, she knows she's in the presence of someone special.
- ✦ Do I let Jesus show me that He knows and understands me?

The Second Scrutiny: The Man Born Blind

- ✦ As soon as he could see, the man's life became very difficult.
- ✦ Has the restoration of my sight so changed me that others are surprised at the transformation?

The Third Scrutiny: Raising of Lazarus from the Dead

- ✦ Jesus shouts the liberating words of life, "Lazarus, come forth!"
- ✦ How is He shouting that to me today?

Please continue to pray for our Catechumens and all those receiving sacraments this Easter!

**STARCIA
The Scrutinies**

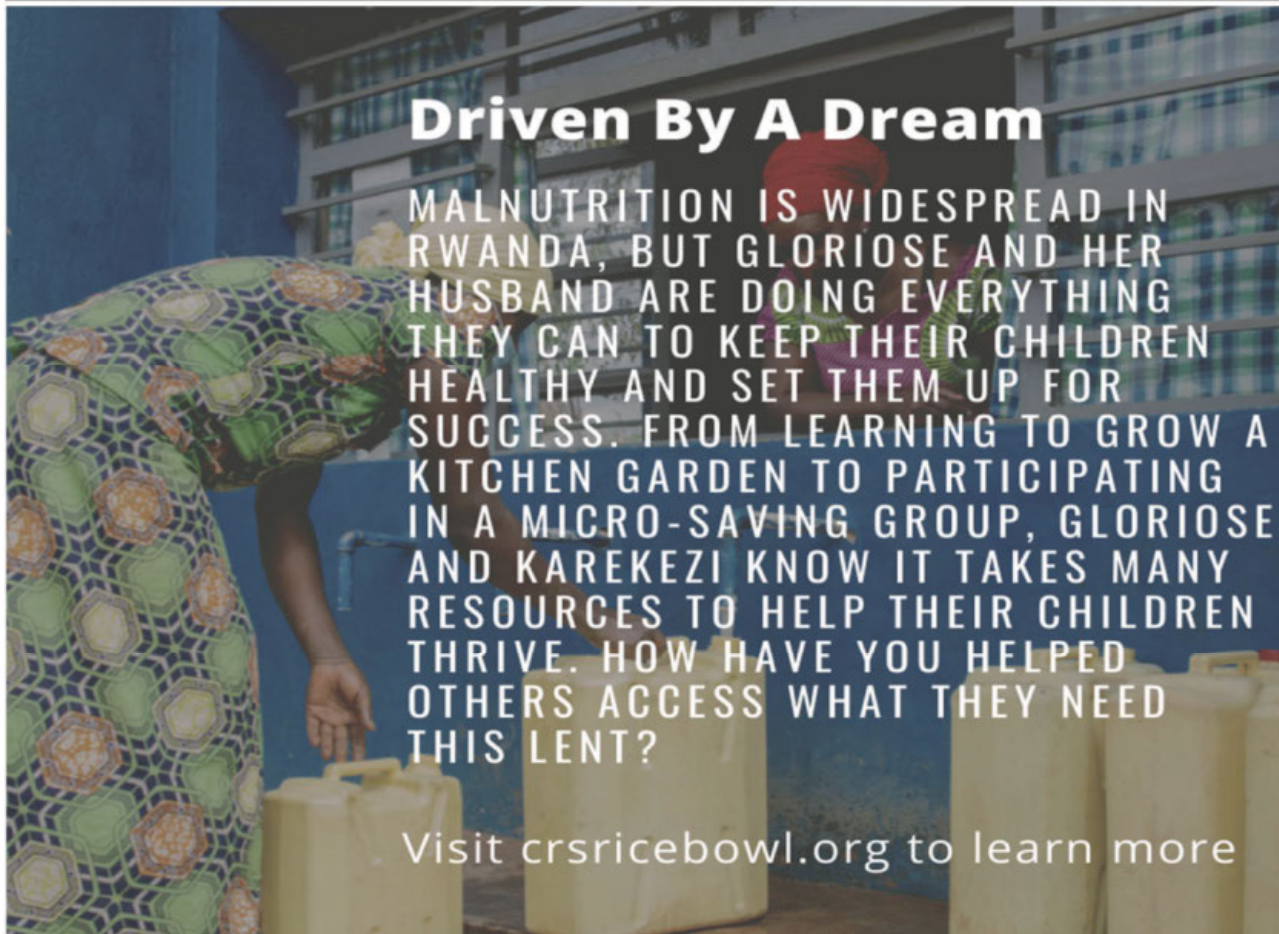
As they reach the Easter Vigil, those receiving sacraments at the Easter Vigil—in particular the Catechumens who will be baptized—enter a time of deeper reflection and prayer. The Scrutinies help them in 5 ways:

- ✦ Uncover, then heal, what is weak, defective, and sinful
- ✦ Bring out what is upright, strong, and good
- ✦ Deliver the Elect from the power of Satan
- ✦ Protect them from temptation
- ✦ Strengthen them in Christ.



The Rite:

- ✦ Intercessions for the Elect
- ✦ Prayer of Exorcism
- ✦ The Laying on of Hands
- ✦ Dismissal of the Elect



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