

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

5376 State Street Saginaw, MI 48603
989-799-2460 www.stasaginaw.org

Catholic Schools

The beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord,
and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
Proverbs 9:10



January 31, 2021

Eucharistic Liturgies

Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Tuesday - Thursday 8:30 AM

First Friday 8:30 AM

In the event of a funeral on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or First Friday, morning Mass will be cancelled.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

2nd & 4th Saturday
9:00-10:00 AM or by appointment

Parish Staff

Fr. Richard Bokinskie Pastor
rickb@stasaginaw.org

Sr. Ann deGuise, OSF
Pastoral Associate
annd@stasaginaw.org

Dawn Drago Parish Secretary
dawnd@stasaginaw.org

Pat Messing Bookkeeper
patm@stasaginaw.org

Deborah Kraklow
Director of Liturgy and Music
debk@stasaginaw.org

Karen Bartels
RCIA Director
Baptism & Funeral Coordinator

Welcome to our Parish: If you are a visitor to St. Thomas Aquinas, we want you to know how welcome you are. If you wish to become a member of our parish, please call the parish office.

Parishioner Info: If you are moving, changing phone numbers or need to update family status, kindly notify the parish office.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.): Anyone seeking information about the Catholic Faith should contact the parish office for more information. Sessions meet from September through Spring.

Baptisms: Held on the first weekend of the month after the required Baptism Preparation Class. Parents are required to be practicing Catholics and attending Mass regularly. Call the parish office to register.

Marriage: Individuals must be registered in the parish at least six months before scheduling a wedding.

A wedding date can only be set after meeting with the parish priest.

Care of the Sick / Pastoral Visits: Please notify the parish office when seriously ill at home, in the hospital or a nursing/assisted facility. Also, if you or a loved one has had a hospital stay and are recovering at a rehab facility or moving into an assisted living facility and wish a pastoral visit.

**Monday, February 1**

Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24; Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday, February 2**Feast of the Presentation of the Lord**

Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

8:30 AM Mass**Wednesday, February 3****Saint Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; Saint Ansgar, Bishop**

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6

8:30 AM Mass**Thursday, February 4**

Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9,10-11; Mk 6:7-13

Friday, February 5**Memorial of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**

Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc; Mk 6:14-29

8:30 AM First Friday Mass**Saturday, February 6****Memorial of Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs**

Heb 13:15-17; 20-21; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mk 6:30-34

4:00 PM Mass**Sunday, February 7****Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23;

Mk 1:29-39

8:30 AM Mass**11:00 AM Mass**

Week Day Mass in the Church on Tuesday, Wednesday and First Friday 8:30 AM. In the event of a funeral, morning Mass will be cancelled.

**NO MASK
NO MASS**



Masks/face coverings must be worn at ALL TIMES in the Church building.

Please sanitize your hands before entering the Church. Use your own or that which is provided in the narthex. Thank you.

Please pray for all who have been commended to our prayer that they will respond to God's healing will, especially:

Tim Novak; Sheila Krawczyk; Larry S.; Harold; Marcella; Amy LaPain; Tim W.; Tom; H.; Rachel L.; John; Bill P.; Jeanne; Rob G.; Jim & Pat D.; Teri J.; Todd J.; Fred; Darlene; Art R; Matthew; and **those who are homebound and in assisted/nursing facilities.**

We are happy to list names of those who request prayers for one month. The list will be purged again on February 28. Please remember to contact the office 799-2460 ext. 1 when a loved one's name no longer needs inclusion on the prayer list.

St. Thomas now has a wonderful **Prayer Line**. If you or your loved one is in need of immediate prayer, please call the Parish Office. Your name will be added to the prayer line and will be on for one week. If you wish to remain on the Prayer Line, please contact the Parish Office once again.

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

Moses told the people, "A prophet like me will the Lord, your God raise up for you from among your own kinsmen." God still provides among His people the gifts and talents necessary to continue the work of His Church. What gifts are yours to share?

January 23/24, 2021

Envelopes	\$	7,311.00
Loose	\$	549.00
Electronic (ACH)	\$	488.00
First Offering	\$	250.00
Total:	\$	8,598.00

Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas in your estate planning.

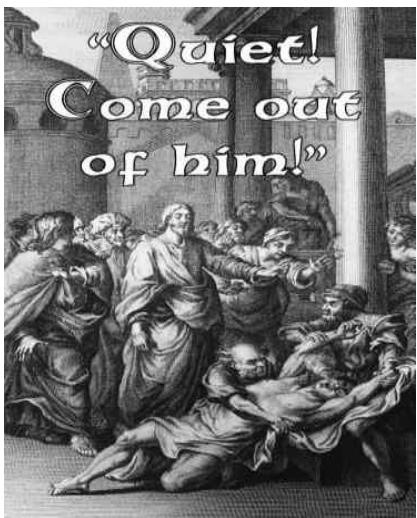
Sponsor of the Week

jolt
CREDIT UNION

The advertisements that appear in this bulletin completely defray all publishing costs which the church would otherwise incur. Please patronize the sponsors on the back of this bulletin and thank them for their kind generosity.

Father Rick's Reflections . . .

I remember when I was a "formal" student – all 22 years' worth! I also remember that once I was done with formal schooling, I began to truly learn about life and what I was called to do and be. As I look back on the many years of life, I also realize that I have been a teacher guiding and directing people in ways that I may not even remember or understand. Ultimately, we teach by how we live, how we treat people, how we respond under stress, how we reprimand a child, how we help a neighbor along with other formal teaching ways. By training and vocation, I am called to teach religion and theology but need to remember that I am still a student for Jesus is the "true rabbi" remember, Jesus did not call his disciples from among the biblical interpreters or experts in Jewish Law but from among fishermen. Now, how could fishermen be teachers in the Bible and Jewish law? What the fishermen knew, or were willing to encounter, was the only true subject – God. These fishermen knew Jesus, spent time with Jesus, and were willing to learn from Jesus what they did not know. Jesus wasn't after technical expertise but a willingness to encounter the word of God as life-changing and life-giving. It was this encounter with truth that led students, the crowds of ordinary people in Galilee, Judea and elsewhere, to throng around Jesus. They responded as people hungry to learn the deepest reality about God and themselves. It seems that the "experts" were not present as Jesus was teaching. Jesus' final act is the demonstration of the divine ground of his teaching when an unclean spirit cried out, "*What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!*" Jesus heals the man, and the people are amazed. Bottom line, we are all to listen to one teacher – God and be ready to know God in our lives.



This week, we are celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Because of the pandemic, we will not be able to have the many open celebrations that everyone was invited to attend. Even the school liturgy for Catholic Schools Week is a private liturgy with only school staff and students attending. However, we will be live streaming the Mass for the students who cannot be in the church.

 It's hard to believe that Lent begins in less than a month. With the pandemic, there are going to be some changes in our celebrations and the distribution of ashes. We have received some directives from the Diocese and will have more information next week.

Winter came back and reminded us of living in Michigan. Hope everyone was safe and secure. With the beginning of February this week, we know that we are starting to turn the corner of winter. Tuesday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and known as "Candlemas" day – the day for blessing of candles. If people have candles they would like to be blessed, bring them to the morning Mass and I will bless them as part of the Mass. Wednesday, February 3, is the feast of St Blaise and the traditional day of blessing of throats. I will be doing a general blessing over everyone who is there. Have a great week.

Fr. Rick

Prayer for Teachers

Lord God, your spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways. Look upon these teachers. Let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds. Grant that they may follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, and the life, forever and ever. Amen.



Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers / USCCB, This Week in Ministry #6-09





Strong in faith
True to our mission
Alive!



FINDING JESUS...
Can you find Jesus
hidden in our bulletin?



Jesus was in Father Rick's column.

In Remembrance

Rosemary Alfano
Loving wife of:
Pete Alfano



Lord, we remember in our prayers Rosemary whom you have called to be with you. May the calming peace of your love be with her family. Amen.

You are invited to bring in your OLD PALMS to the gathering area and deposit them in the baskets by Sunday, February 14. We will then burn them and use the ashes for the Ash Wednesday services.



**Watch Mass
On-line**

Recorded Mass for Sunday
<https://stasaginaw.org/live-streamed-recorded-masses>

Parent Baptism Preparation Class

The next preparation class will take place on **Monday, February 15 at 7:00 PM** in the Church. Please contact the Parish Office ext. 4 to register.

Parents are required to attend the preparation session and should be registered St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners attending Mass regularly.

Baptisms are normally held on the first weekend of the month.

Intention Candles

A candle will be lit for your intention.



Envelopes with a red dot will be lit for the Sacred Heart and blue dot will be lit for the Blessed Mother.

Place sealed envelope back in the basket, the weekend collection basket or in the parish office drop box.

Year End St. Thomas Aquinas Statements were mailed last week. Questions on the STA Contribution Statements, PLEASE call Pat Messing at 799-2460 ext. 4. **Thank you.**

Year End Christ's Mission Appeal payments will be mailed directly by the diocese to anyone who made a one-time payment of \$250.00 or more. If you would like a statement, please contact Pat at the Parish Office.



February 6/7 Old Town Christian Outreach

Suggested items: dry pasta and sauces (in plastic if possible), canned soups, crackers, package dinners, canned meats, canned vegetables/fruits, pancake mix/syrup, cereals and any household paper products or cleaning products ie: dish/laundry detergents, cleaners, paper towel/toilet paper.

Monetary donations can be sent directly to 600 Gratiot Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602.

Collection: February 13/14
Brown Bag Bunch



Welcome Visitors & Friends

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or have visited before, we welcome you! If you are looking for a church home in this community, we invite you to consider St. Thomas Aquinas Parish. Please come join us again!

If you are
praying on it,
God is
working on it.

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Children's Bulletins

Pick one up to share the Gospel with your children. Puzzles and games each week for ages 3-6 and 7-12.

Bulletins are available in the narthex.

Live Mass: Online (computer) Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption, Saginaw

All are invited to celebrate daily 8:00 AM Mass Monday - Saturday.

The celebration of Sunday Mass is livestreamed at 10:30 AM.



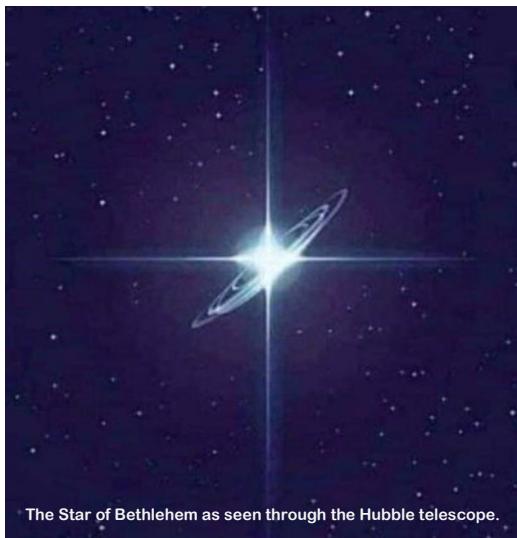
You can find the link on the website at www.saginawdiocese.org. Videos of Masses will remain online after livestreaming.

"This is one way we can continue to pray together and remain in union with Jesus at the cross," Bishop Gruss said. "From the cross flows the grace, faith, hope and love necessary to help us during this time."

Rachel's Vineyard Post Abortive Support Training

Social workers, counselors, crisis pregnancy center staff, pastoral staff, spiritual directors and anyone interested in learning how to provide post abortive support are invited to attend a **statewide Rachel's Vineyard and Project Rachel Training Day being offered virtually on Feb. 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.** This training is co-hosted by the dioceses of Saginaw, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo and the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Rachel's Vineyard and Project Rachel Ministry offers opportunities for post-abortion healing and reconciliation for women and men. The event will feature presentations addressing healing after abortion, including trauma, shame, post-abortion stress, grief, and how faith plays a role in healing. For additional details and to register, visit: <http://bit.ly/ProjectRachelTrainingRegistrationFeb2021> or email lbecker@dioceseofsaginaw.org. Registration deadline is February 11th.



COVID-19 Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected...

Readings for The Epiphany of the Lord

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

The last part of the book of Isaiah contains the words of a prophet who lived after the Jews returned from exile in Babylon (which is modern-day Iraq). They found their temple destroyed and the city leveled. But with great faith the prophet envisions a wonderful future for Jerusalem.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

The Ephesians were a community in which Jewish converts to Christianity lived side-by-side with Gentile converts. The author of this letter confirms that God's saving grace is available to everyone, whatever their background.

Gospel Reflection: Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi — Gentile (non-believers) possess humility of faith, and the openness of mind and heart to seek and welcome Jesus. King Herod reacts with anger and hostility toward Jesus. The chief priests and scribes greet the birth of Jesus with indifference, but will later resist everything Jesus does. Today we face modern day Herods and scribes with motives of power and domination, or with resistance to change or indifference.

For your reflection: The Magi followed a star to find Jesus. Who or what has been like that star leading me to find Jesus in my life?

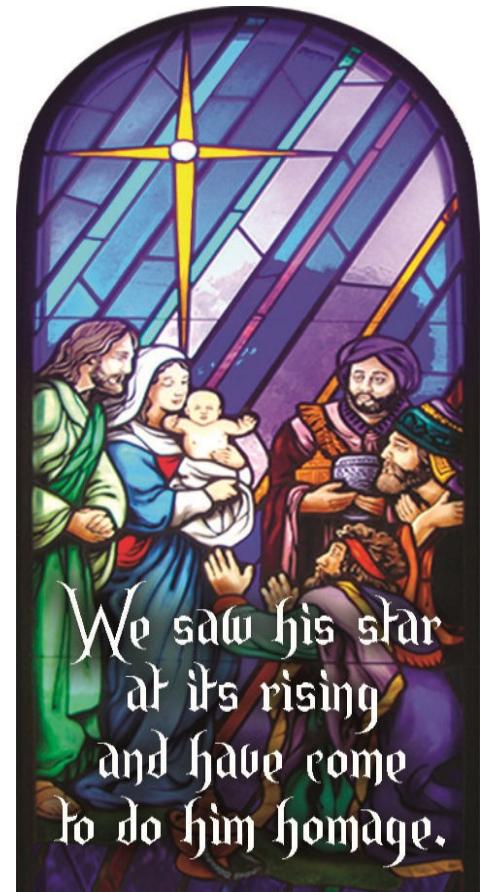
Family Perspective-by Bud Ozar

The Magi in today's gospel were led to Jesus by a star. Who are the stars your children follow? Don't let it be the tabloid stars. Resolve in this New Year to be the guiding star in the life of your children.

Stewardship Reflections

"..they fell down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..."Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!





Catholic Diocese of

SAGINAW Catholic Schools Week 2021- Points of Pride

Dear Catholic School Community and Supporters,

During the week of January 31 through February 6, our Catholic schools will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. Without the steadfast support of our families and parishes, our schools would not be able to spread the Message of Christ. Contributions to the Christ Mission Appeal also play an important role in supporting the essential work that our schools are engaged in. On behalf of all of our schools, we wanted to thank you for your support and share the following information with you.

All Catholic Schools to Join Together in Prayer / Supported Through Masses for Their Intentions:

- At 1:00 p.m., on Monday, January 31, students, staff and faculty in all of our Catholic schools in the Diocese of Saginaw will join in prayer together. Although daily prayer is a common occurrence in our schools, on the first school day of Catholic Schools week, we are making a special effort to bring all of our schools together through our Faith. This small act is a reminder that there are thousands of students and staff members spread across our Diocese engaged in growing our Faith and fostering the intellectual development of our future Catholic leaders.
- Beginning in January and through the end of the current school year, at least one Mass every week has been and will be offered up for students, teachers, support staff, and administrators by pastors associated with Catholic Schools in our diocese. With all the challenges that our schools have faced with COVID-19, we could think of no better way to support them than by celebrating Masses for them and their intentions. (These Masses are in addition to the regular Masses celebrated at our schools.)

COVID Safety:

- In the spring and summer of 2020, a Diocese of Saginaw Back to School Task Force gathered virtually to support our schools and our strong desire to safely provide in-person learning. Every Catholic school was represented in the group, which consisted of over 40 community members and educators. The task force focused on four main areas: faith and wellness, instruction, operations, and facilities. A Diocesan Preparedness plan was created and shared with our schools. Each school also created a building specific plan.
- Our overall infection rate for students and staff across the diocese through mid-December was 2.4%. The infection rate for students in preschool through 12th grade was 1.6%. This relatively low rate is in large part due to the mitigation strategies that our schools implemented, which in many cases, exceeded the requirements established by the state.
- In addition to the new students that enrolled at the beginning of the school year, over 40 additional students joined our Catholic school community during the first semester. This is, in part, a result of our ability to safely provide in-person learning.
- Catholic school staff and faculty have begun to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Distribution and access varies by county, based on availability.

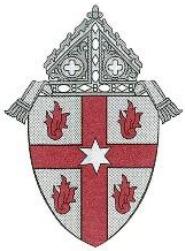
Welcome Scholarship:

- Launched in the 2019-20 academic year, the Welcome Scholarship continues to support students and families that seek a high-quality, faith-based education. As of mid-January, 2021, over 353 students have benefited from the scholarship. This scholarship was the result of a \$100,000 gift from the Wolohan Foundation, with a matching contribution from the Diocese. (More information on the Welcome Scholarship can be found at <https://www.saginaw.org/welcome-scholarship>)

Supporting our Teachers:

- The past year has truly been an unprecedented time in education. Every Catholic school staff member has gone above and beyond to support our families and students. Our Catholic school teachers in particular have been asked to do so much. Through collaboration with the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan, the Office of Catholic Schools was able to distribute over \$53,000 to support our Catholic school teachers across the Diocese. The funds were generated by various endowments that support Catholic education.

For more information or to support our Catholic Schools, please contact the Office of Catholic Schools at 989-767-6651
Or visit: <https://saginaw.org/our-schools> - <https://saginaw.org/catholic-schools/ccfmm-and-catholic-schools>



Catholic Diocese of Saginaw

Catholic Schools Week Prayer, 2021 Prayer for Catholic Schools

O Christ, our Teacher,

You invite Your faithful people to make disciples in Your name and to announce good news to the poor. We thank You for the gift of Catholic schools, where

The message of Your life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed,
Christian community is experienced,
Service to our brothers and sisters is modeled,
And worship of You is cultivated.

Increase our zeal for ensuring that all children and families can benefit from a high quality Catholic education, and that Catholic schools grow in their ability to nurture the soul of our nation.

We ask this through the intercession of:

St Gabriel

Father Nouvel

Our Lady of Lake Huron

The Most Sacred Heart

St Brigid of Kildare

St Mary

St Elizabeth

St Joseph

St Michael

All Saints

And Our Lady, Mary of the Assumption, Patroness of Our Diocese

Amen.



January 3, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

The Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6 | Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6 | Mt 2:1-12

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The Christmas tree has become a fire hazard, shedding needles everywhere. The kids have cast aside their new toys. Perhaps we've overspent this holiday season and are vaguely anxious about the bills. The bookmark in our Advent devotional is stuck at Dec. 9, and we've already blown a couple New Year's resolutions. And yet, the words of prophet Isaiah shake us out of our doldrums: "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you ... Raise your eyes and look about." Freed from the busyness of the holiday season, we get a kind of do-over. Even on the grayest of winter days, Christ's light breaks through in this new year and presents new opportunities to open ourselves to the activity of the Holy Spirit acting in our lives. Let us pray for the grace to recognize it.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I love the feast of the Epiphany because I went into labor with my oldest son that night; he came into the world on a rainy, blustery Monday morning in 1998. I remember the joy my healthy baby boy brought to me and my husband, his grandmas, aunts, uncles and cousins. Imagine the joy the Wise Men must have felt when they followed that star and saw baby Jesus for the first time! They praised the Christ Child with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God still dwells among us today, and the Light of Christ beckons us all to follow it. As we bless our homes this Epiphany and pray, "May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love," let us witness to God's presence in our homes and in our hearts by offering Christ our very own gifts - of our lives and our abiding faith in him.

PRAY the Blessing of the Home and Household: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. It is Christ who enlightens our hearts and homes with his love. May all who enter this home find Christ's light and love."

PLEASE JOIN WITH OTHER CHURCHES AND
ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE AREA
ON SUPER BOWL SUNDAY
TO HELP THOSE LESS FORTUNATE

SOUPE^R BOWL **SUNDAY**

February 7, 2021

LET'S TACKLE HUNGER! TOGETHER!



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 Families
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 L. & J. Pacholke - Deceased
 The Klonowski Family

M. James Robinson Family
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