

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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

**Amen, I say to you,
this generation will
not pass away until
all these things have
taken place. Heaven
and earth will pass
away, but my words
will not pass away.
“But of that day or
hour, no one knows,
neither the angels in
heaven, nor the Son,
but only the Father.”**

Mark 13:30-32

Mission Statement

We, the St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Community, united by our love for God and one another, are called to evangelize through worship, service, life-long learning, promoting God’s truth, peace and justice, and respecting all creation.

33
ORDINARY
TIME

Father Rick's Reflections . . .



For anyone who has ever spent time outdoors and walking in the woods, there are some caveats that we learn. Don't touch the ivy, the oak or the sumac as it may be poisonous. If you live in the desert areas, do not back into the cactus. We learn these lessons from our experience in life.

How many of you have a farm or a window garden or yards to take care of or maybe simply a tree in the front of where you live? If you have the slightest relationship to the natural world on a regular basis, you can appreciate why so many biblical lessons involve the growing, burgeoning life around us. The story of the Bible starts in a garden, as God painstakingly puts the natural world together in an orderly fashion. It should not be a surprise that humanity's first job description is gardener. Our relationship to the natural world is primary, instinctive, and grateful. Don't we all love to get out of the towns and cities we have made, to stand in the open air and breathe in the world that seems, somehow, more real and virtuous than the one that normally contains us?

Jesus says today, "*Learn a lesson from the fig tree.*" But what is that lesson? If we listen closely, it is that, paying attention to nature around us, we "*know*" what going to happen. He tells stories about the natural world every time he teaches – about what happens when you sow seed in different kinds of ground; about the providence that sustains the birds and the wildflowers; about knowing a good tree by its fruits; about the attention God pays to every common sparrow. Jesus compares his coming

Kingdom to a mustard seed, beneath our notice until it comes to fulfillment. He warns us about the onset of evil in terms of weeds growing up in the wheat.

Jesus does not only invite his disciples to observe nature's ways and to learn from them. He also demonstrates the subordination of nature to the God who created and sustains it. Jesus curses a fig tree, and it withers. Jesus calms a storm with a simple command and walks on water as if it were a smooth road. Jesus could take a little bit of food and make it sufficient, even superabundant.

The fig tree offers its uncluttered testimony: When new leaves sprout, summer is near. Jesus is insisting that natural relationships are readily revealed to those with eyes to see. If we want to know what time it is, we can look at the clock and get one answer—but we should recognize that it is not the only answer. Right now, we could say it is a weekend in November, the end of another church year, late autumn, almost Thanksgiving — and all of those would be correct replies to the question: What time is it? We could also reflect on the age and condition of our individual bodies and come up with another response: "near the beginning" or "almost home." The human race also appears somewhere on the cosmic dial, and so does creation itself. That time may be easier or harder to read, depending on how you interpret the signs. But the cosmic clock is ticking, personally and universally, and Jesus wants us to make no mistake about that.

The Church offers us the opportunity to reflect upon the end-times as we draw our liturgical year to a close. It does so, so we do not forget the lesson of the fig tree, among others. We should also recall the story of the treasure that moths cannot eat and rust cannot ruin. We should remain wide awake, as Jesus says, to the truth that this temporal reality is passing away, and our fragile bodies along with it. Everything we attach ourselves to so dearly in this world is moving in the natural direction of its mortal limits. If we believe there is more to life than this, then we need to give attention to that world beyond the world. The fig tree's lesson is so simple, perhaps it takes a child to understand it.

I would ask that you keep our young people in prayer as some of them will be celebrating the Sacrament of Penance for the first time this week. It is a wonderful celebration for them as they come to experience God's healing in a very special way. They will be celebrating on Tuesday evening.

It is hard to believe that next weekend is the last weekend of our Church's liturgical year with the celebration of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. The following Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent, a new liturgical year, and the immediate preparation to remember the events of the incarnation at Christmas. A week from Thursday, November 25, we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, a day to remember the bounty we are all blessed with and called to share with those who struggle to find enough to eat. We have our Thanksgiving Pie ready to receive gift cards that we distribute to organizations in our area that help the poor. Also, we have the responsibility of supplying the East Side Soup Kitchen with pies for their Thanksgiving luncheon which, this year, will be held on Thanksgiving Day itself. We need 150 pies to be dropped off for them on **Wednesday, November 24 from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.**

Speaking of Thanksgiving, we will be gathering as a parish community for Mass that morning at 9:00 am. This is a great opportunity for us to remember how God has blessed us and continues to share his bounty with us. The parish office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after – November 25-26 – so plan accordingly. Have a great week!

F. Rick



In Our Parish

Tuesday, November 16

8:30 AM Mass

Wednesday, November 17

8:30 AM Mass

Thursday, November 18

8:30 AM Mass w/ NCCE

Saturday, November 20

4:00 PM Mass

Sunday, November 21

8:30 AM Mass

11:00 AM Mass

Private Prayer Time

The church is opened Monday thru Friday, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM for private visits.



Scripture Readings

Readings for the Week of November 7, 2021

Sunday	Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Dn 12:1-3; Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11; Heb 10:11-14,18; Mk 13:24-32
Monday	Saint Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday	Saint Margaret of Scotland; Saint Gertrude, Virgin 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday	Memorial of Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15; Lk 19:11-28
Thursday	The Dedication of the Basilicas of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles; Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44 Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Mt 14:22-33
Friday	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Lk 19:45-48
Saturday	1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19; Lk 20:27-40
Sunday	Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Dn 7:13-14; Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

Thanksgiving Day Mass

November 25
9:00 AM



Prayers



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

Jake R.
Carol K.
Helen M.
Monica
Sue C.
Harold G.
Sylvia T.
Jack S.
Larry S.
Dennis
Jim & Pat D.
Al V.
Betty T.

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 November 30. Please remember to contact the office 799-2460 ext. 1 when a loved one's name no longer needs inclusion on the prayer list.



ThanksGiving

We are asking the community of St. Thomas to continue our outreach programs by purchasing a "Gift Card" from a local grocery store to be gifted to those in need this holiday season.

Please drop your GIFT in the PIE located in the church narthex by **Monday, November 22nd.**

The East Side Soup Kitchen will be hosting their Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day. As in years past, ESSK has been very grateful for the donations of pies that compliment the dinner. We would like to collect **150 baked pies** (no pumpkin) to enjoy with their meal.

We ask that you bring your baked pies to the **CHURCH, Wednesday, November 24 between 8:00 - 11:00 AM.**

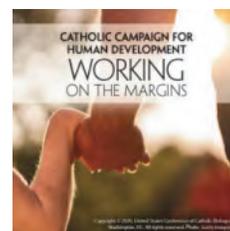
God bless you for your kindness



In and Around Our Parish

Catholic Campaign for Human Development • November 20 & 21

Next week our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. More than thirty-eight million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to bring permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/cchd. Envelopes are in your monthly packet or available in the narthex.



Boy Scout #312 Annual Wreath Sale

The next order dates in the church will be on **November 20 & 21**. Pick up dates for this order will be the first weekend of December.

Wreaths measure 22", 32" and 42" in diameter made from FRESH balsam pine. Each comes decorated with pinecones and your choice of bow color. Payment is due at time ordered.

You may also order in the Parish Office or drop your order in the Sunday collection. The wreath sale is the major fundraiser with all funds going to the troop. Thank You for Supporting our Scouts!

READER (Lector) Workbooks

Cycle C workbooks are available for pick up on the counter in the narthex. The new liturgical cycle begins on the First Sunday of Advent, November 28, 2021.

Food Program Outreach • Brown Bag Bunch • November 20 & 21

Please take time to help the Brown Bag Bunch with any of the following needed items: juice drink boxes/bags, packaged cookies, peanut butter, lunchmeat, sandwich and snack size zip-top bags, **snacks, pretzels**, individually wrapped snack cakes, strawberry and grape jelly/jam; and mayonnaise.

Monetary donations are gladly accepted. Please drop in the collection marked 'Brown Bag'.

Christ's Mission Appeal - CMA

All questions regarding the Appeal, please call Pat Messing in the parish office, 989-799-2460 ext. 4. Thank you.

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. Contact the Parish Office for more information on becoming a member.



The readings today speak of the end of the world and the coming of the Kingdom. The bishops' pastoral on stewardship says clearly that "that 'life to come' is in continuity with this present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now." May our good stewardship cause us to be numbered among the chosen on the last day!

November 6 & 7, 2021

Envelopes.....	\$15,730.00
Loose.....	\$1,154.00
Electronic (ACH).....	\$773.00
World Mission Sunday.....	\$35.00
CCHD Campaign Human Development.....	\$70.00
Total.....	\$17,762.00

Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas in your estate planning.

Sponsor of the Week

White Orthodontics

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St. Thomas Aquinas Church

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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.

Parish Staff

PastorFr. Richard Bokinskie
rickb@stasaginaw.org

Parochial Vicar Fr. Kevin Wojciechowski
kevinw@stasaginaw.org

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

Parish Secretary Dawn Drago
dawnd@stasaginaw.org

Bookkeeper.....Pat Messing
patm@stasaginaw.org

Baptism & Funeral Coordinator & RCIA DirectorKaren Bartels
starcia@stasaginaw.org

Eucharistic Liturgies

Saturday4:00 PM
Sunday.....8:30 & 11:00AM
Tuesday - Thursday8:30 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)

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

Baptisms will be scheduled 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.



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Readings for the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

The book of Daniel was written 150 years before Christ, when the Jews were experiencing fierce persecution. The author wanted to encourage them by telling heroic stories about a person named Daniel who lived many centuries earlier. For most of their history, Old Testament people believed only in, at best, a shadowy existence after death. Today's passage contains one of the earliest references to a growing belief in life after death.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18

Scholars feel that the community for which the Letter to the Hebrews was written included Christians of Jewish origin. Since the letter was written after the Jewish temple was destroyed, they were pining for the old days when the high priest offered daily sacrifices in the temple. The author says they shouldn't be upset. They no longer need a temple, sacrifices or priests because Jesus is all of these and more.

Gospel Reflection: Mark 13:24-32

Life is a journey through changes. Changes--sometimes frightening, often painful and challenging, most often difficult are part of this journey for us all. But when our "heavens and earth" pass away, still the promise and word of God will remain. There are signs all around us---like the late autumn winds of November ---that remind us that we live in the shadow of eternity. In everyone's life the "fig tree" grows and flowers and finally fades. Yet we look forward with eyes and spirits of faith, hope and trust in God's faithfulness.

For your reflection: What does this month---this month of coming winter - of Thanksgiving - teach us about the passing of time -- about death and resurrection?

Family Perspective-by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel teaches us UNCERTAINTY is normal. There are some things in life which "no one knows... only the Father." Marriage and parenting are full of uncertainty for like the fig tree in the gospel, the people we love grow and change.

Stewardship Reflections

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory."
Mark 13:26

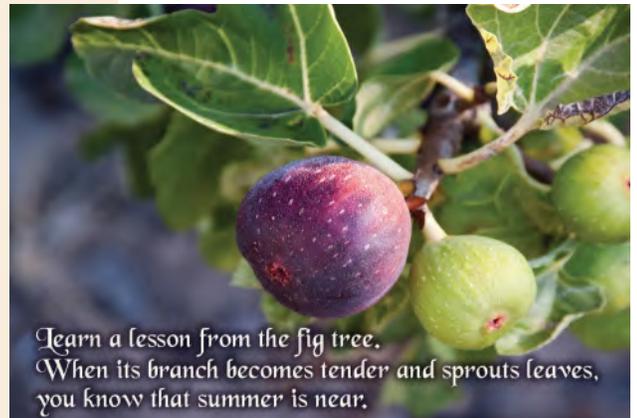
We will all have that day when we are standing before God and our life is played out like a movie. When this happens and God asks each of us, "What have you done with the gifts that I have given you?" How will you respond? The good news -- it's never too late to live and grateful and generous lifestyle.

Individual Rite of Penance

9:00 AM

Second and Fourth Saturdays
of the month

November 27



November 14, 2021

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dn 12:1-3 | Heb 10:11-14, 18 | Mk 13:24-32

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

My husband reads the obituaries regularly, as did my elderly Aunt Loretta. Me, I avoid them. I don't like to think about death, and the same can be said for some references to the end times, particularly those like we hear in the Book of Daniel: "Some shall live forever, others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace." Give me a comforting psalm any day! However, in today's Gospel, Jesus assures us that we who believe need not fear the Second Coming, for at that time the Son of Man shall "gather his elect." Yes, "heaven and earth will pass away," but the words of Jesus never shall. It is true, we don't know the time or the hour of his return and so we prepare for it by remaining focused on Jesus' words and turning our lives over to him in and through the sacramental life of the Church. Strive to live well on earth, following the path to eternal life that our loving and merciful Savior has paved for us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

It's easy to become complacent in that striving. I notice that tendency in everyday life - taking my spouse for granted, not being mindful of how what I say and do serves as an example (either good or bad!) for another. It's like moving through the day with blinders on. In today's Gospel, Jesus is teaching his disciples about his return in glory, and how those who follow him will be able to sense its approach. "Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near." In other words, "pay attention; be observant" - the opposite of complacency. To counter this within ourselves, we can ask God to open our eyes to the signs of his love all around us - our spouses and dear friends, our families, and all the gifts we have been given. Just as importantly, we can accompany one another as we seek to grow in holiness and prepare for the day we meet Jesus, living as an example in word and deed. As the Book of Daniel so eloquently tells us, "The wise shall shine brightly like the splendor of the firmament, and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever."

PRAY Read the obituaries! Many of them contain inspiring examples of lives well lived. Take a moment in this month of November to pray for all who have died. Make a conscious effort to be a specific example to another of Christ's love in the world that they, too, might be better prepared for Christ's return.

"HEAVEN
AND EARTH
WILL PASS
AWAY

but my words

WILL NOT
PASS
AWAY."

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