

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

5376 State Street • Saginaw, MI 48603

Mission Statement of St. Thomas Aquinas

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.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Do not be afraid;
from now on you
will be catching men.”

Luke 5:10



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.

Father Rick's Reflections . . .



Today, Jesus is calling his first disciples to follow him in his ministry. All of our readings for today contain a story of a call – different people, in different circumstances, with different social and religious status – yet all are touched by the divine initiative. Isaiah, perhaps daydreaming, was in the Jerusalem temple; Paul certainly persecuting, was on the road to Damascus; the fishermen, at the Gennesaret (the Sea of Galilee) were washing their nets.

In the gospel, Jesus is standing on the lakeside with a crowd pressing around him to hear the word of God. Significantly, Peter and his companions are not part of this crowd. They are tending to their nets after an unprofitable night's fishing. Then, Jesus himself becomes a "fisherman." He gets into Simon's boat, hauls this nonplussed man in with him, and puts out a short way from the shore to continue teaching the crowd. After that, Jesus addresses his words to Simon only, telling him to launch out into the deep and put down his nets for a catch. Something that Simon Peter had heard as he sat with Jesus must have made an impression, for he responds to Jesus as "Master" and, although he cannot resist reminding Jesus that their nets were empty the night before, in obedience to Jesus' words, he casts them into the water.

Then a great reversal happens, as it does so often in the gospels and as it will

for all those who are obedient to Jesus. Empty nets become full to the breaking point, and Peter's personal encounter with Jesus leads to the call of James and John to help with the catch; emptiness becomes fullness in not only one boat, but two. Peter is as overwhelmed as the boats. He falls down at Jesus' feet, now calling him "Lord," the post-resurrection title that Luke throws back into this early episode so that those who hear this narrative will recognize the presence of the risen One throughout the whole of his gospel. Peter begs Jesus to leave him because he is a sinner. We may admire this as Peter's humble profession of his unworthiness to associate with Jesus. But if we read our own experiences, could there not also be a fear of the deep waters that Peter might be letting himself into, waters that would be less troubled if Jesus just went away and left the fishermen to their nets, empty or full? Are there times when we have said to God, "Why me?" when being asked to cope with this commitment, this vocation, this suffering? One day a young woman whose daughter had just given birth to a child with Down syndrome, said in tears to her mother, "Why me?" Her mother replied, "Why? Because of all my children, you are the one whom I would choose – and God has chosen – to be the mother of this child who needs so much love."

At the beginning of the third millennium, John Paul II reminded the church of this section of Luke's gospel: "Duc in altum! Put out into the deep?" These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm, and to look forward to the future with confidence: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) Now that we are more than two decades into the third millennium, how are we measuring up to this challenge?

We have a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land beginning April 25 scheduled. We are getting excited about the trip but need to have more people to attend. If you know of friends or family members that would like to make this pilgrimage, pass on the information to them. We would like to get 20 people as a minimum size of the group. For more



information, please contact the parish office.

Speaking of the Holy Land, we wish Fr Kevin safe travels as he is heading to the Holy Land with another group of pilgrims from Bay City joining Fr Jose and Fr Andy Booms. As seminarians, they have an opportunity to spend some time in the Holy Land, but this is different now that he is a priest. It is truly life-changing experience to visit and pray at the sites we hear in the Scriptures. Bon Voyage!

After some more cold weather and snow, just a reminder that if Nouvel Catholic Schools and/or Saginaw Township Schools are canceled due to weather, morning Mass and any parish scheduled activities are canceled as well that day. We want to make sure everyone stays safe. Have a great week!

Fr. Rick

In Our Parish

Tuesday, February 8

8:30 AM Mass

Wednesday, February 9

8:30 AM Mass

Thursday, February 10

8:30 AM Mass w/ NCCE

Saturday, February 12

9:00-10:00 AM

Individual Rite of Penance

4:00 PM Mass

Sunday, February 13

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.

Individual Rite of Penance

9:00-10:00 AM

Second and Forth Saturdays
of the month

February 12 & 26



Low Gluten Altar Breads Available for Communion

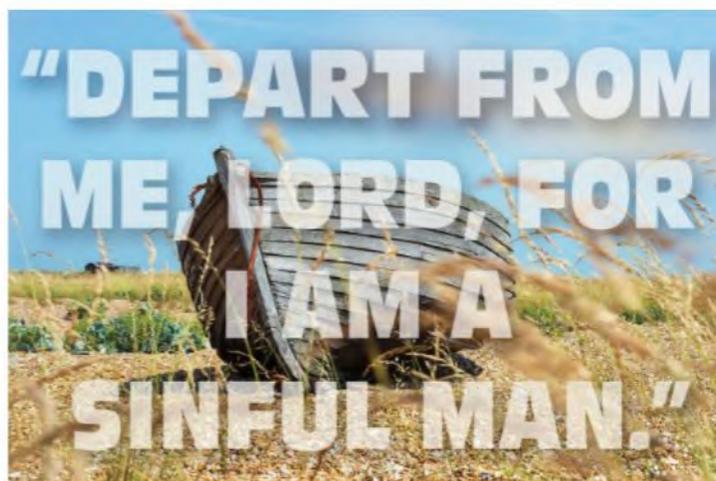
STA has communion hosts with less than 0.01% gluten content available for parish members whose health needs require low gluten altar breads. Please see Father Rick or Father Kevin with instructions as how to receive at Mass.



Scripture Readings

Readings for the Week of February 6, 2022

Sunday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Lk 5:1-11
Monday	1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132: 6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday	1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84: 3,4,5 & 10, 11; Mk 7: 1-13
Wednesday	1 Kgs 10: 1-10/; Ps 37: 5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23
Thursday	1 Kgs 11:4 -13; Ps 106: 3-4, 35-36, 37 & 40; Mk 7:24-30
Friday	1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19; Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15; Mk 7:31-37
Saturday	1 Kgs 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22; Mk 8:1-10
Sunday	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jer 17:5-8; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 & 6; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26



Prayers

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

Mike Benjamin
Veronica
Jordan
Pete
C.A.
S.K.
Harold G.
Sylvia T.
Larry S.
Jim & Pat D.
Stephanie
Al V.
Deb P.
Monica
Joanne
Sheila B.
Abbey
Greg
Rachel

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

Special News

Thank you

Dear Friends at St. Thomas Aquinas,

This is a belated but very sincere thank you for all of the gift cards and other donations made to Old Town outreaches for the needy in this community. As always The Soup Kitchen and Baby Pantry were greatly blessed by your GIVING TREE and your generosity.

In spite of COVID and the difficulties our country is experiencing, may 2022 be a healthy happy, and prosperous year for each of you and your families.

With the help of this community we will continue to serve the needy with kindness and compassion in 2022 and beyond.

Don & Bonnie Dinninger

Josh & Chelsea Bernard

Saginaw Catholic Men's Conference • Swimming Upstream: Living a Catholic Life in a Pagan World

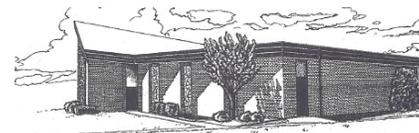
March 5, 2022 from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM at St. Hyacinth Catholic Church Bay City, Michigan

Featured Speakers: Bishop Robert Gruss and Steve Ray

Purchase tickets at www.eventbrite.com. Online only price: \$25, pricing ends on February 22, 2022.

Walk-up registration starts at 7:30 AM Admission is \$30 paid at the door. Priests, Religious & Under 21 FREE, admission includes lunch. More information please contact The Catholic Men's Fellowship of Saginaw at www.thecatholicmen.com.

In and Around Our Parish



Parent Baptism Preparation Class

The next preparation class will be **Monday, February 7 at 7:00 PM**. Please contact the Parish Office to register at 989-799-2460 ext. 4. Parents are required to attend the preparation session and should be registered St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners attending Mass regularly.

Food Program Outreach • Brown Bag Bunch • February 12 & 13

Please take time to help the Brown Bag Bunch with any of the following needed items: **juice drink boxes/bags, packaged cookies**, peanut butter, 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'.

Stay Informed at St. Thomas Aquinas with Evangelus • Visit eva.us/stasaginaw

There are so many amazing things going on at the parish. Sign up so you won't miss out. To register for emails or text messages: EMAIL eva.us/stasaginaw or TEXT stasaginaw to 55321.

Please contact the parish office if you would like to add your email address/addresses, have changed an email address or there have been updates your phone service.



Bible Study & Sharing • Wednesdays 10:00 AM

All are Welcome...Come as you can...Join us in the Parish Office Meeting Room. Bible Study & Sharing is an informal morning reviewing the scriptures for Sunday.

Winter Weather Policy

When there is inclement weather and *Nouvel Catholic Central Schools* and/or Saginaw Township Schools are *CLOSED* there will be NO morning Mass or church related events. All day and evening church meetings will also be cancelled.



In today's readings, both Isaiah and Peter hear the call of God and feel themselves unworthy. But, reassured by the Lord, both answer and follow. Do I hear the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send?" "Am I prepared to answer ' Here I am. Send me!'"

January 30, 2022

Envelopes..... \$14,832.00
 Loose..... \$874.00
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 Brown Bag..... \$25.00
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 Total..... \$16,704.00

Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas in your estate planning.

Sponsor of the Week

Aida B. Ponce, MD

To view the full ad see the back of the bulletin. Be sure to patronize all of our businesses as their generosity allows us to provide the bulletin to you at no cost to the Parish.

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

Deacon Deacon Gary Patelski
gapatelski@aol.com

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

Music Accompanist Deborah Kraklow
debk@stasaginaw.org

Watch Mass On-line

<https://stasaginaw.org/live-streamed-recorded-masses>

Recorded Mass for Sunday

Eucharistic Liturgies

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

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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Elementary 989.792.2361

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Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8

The prophet Isaiah lived about 750 years before Christ. His enthusiastic response to God led to a prophetic career that lasted over 40 years. In this brief passage, we find not only the source for the “Holy, Holy” in the Mass, but also the prayer before reading the Gospel (asking God to cleanse one’s lips), and finally the refrain from a frequently used contemporary hymn.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

We continue our reading from Paul’s first letter to the Corinthians. Some members of the community had questioned the bodily resurrection of Jesus and our own resurrection as well. This passage is Paul’s response. It is the oldest written record of the Church’s core tradition about Christ’s resurrection.

Gospel Reflection: Luke 5:1-11

The miraculous catch of fish convinces Peter of the holiness of Jesus. In contrast, Peter sees his own sinfulness and unworthiness and asks Jesus to leave him. Peter did not yet realize that the reason Jesus came was to call sinners to a new way of life. Thomas Merton once wrote, “the root of Christian love is that we are loved by God.” Peter accepts Jesus’ invitation to follow him and to share in the work of Jesus.

For your reflection: Have you ever felt humbled or overcome with the sense of your sinfulness while at the same time God’s love and mercy? How did it feel?

Family Perspective-by Bud Ozar

In today’s gospel Jesus asked Simon to start by “going a short distance.” Later he asked Simon to “go into deeper water.” The first step toward reconciliation is usually a “short distance” which gives us the courage to further “into deeper water.” Reconciliation starts with the first short step!

Stewardship Reflections

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’ ‘Here I am,’ I said, ‘send me!’”
Isaiah 6:8

Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, “Whom shall I send?” Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we just need to pay more attention. When you hear God calling have the courage to walk through the door and say “Here I am, Lord.”



Individual Rite of Reconciliation (aka “confessions”)

9:00 – 10:00 AM

February 12 & 26

Front Church door will be open to enter and exit the narthex.

While waiting to celebrate the sacrament, you may wait in the narthex practicing social distancing.

Each penitent will have the option to celebrate the sacrament either behind a screen or face-to-face, keeping 6 feet social distancing.

Once you have finished celebrating the sacrament, you must leave the church nave and narthex.

February 6, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8 | 1 Cor 15:1-11 or 1 Cor 15:3-8, 11
| Lk 5:1-11

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

We put off all kinds of things for all kinds of reasons. I'll take that trip with my family once my schedule clears up. Someday I'll read that book collecting dust on my shelf. I'll volunteer at church once I get my own act together. Today's readings remind us that God will take us as we are: We need only say "yes." In each of the readings, the protagonists – Isaiah, Paul, and Peter – initially resist God's call, fearing their sinfulness disqualifies them. We may feel that way, too. However, in each case, God forgives their sins and gives them the grace to say, like Isaiah, "Here I am. Send me!" Their assent can be a challenge to those of us who hold back from becoming more involved in our parish or sharing our faith with others, fearing we aren't good enough or aren't an expert in theology. Jesus reminds us that it is ultimately not about *us*, but him. We don't have to be perfect, just willing to push past our fears and trust him to make disciples of us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

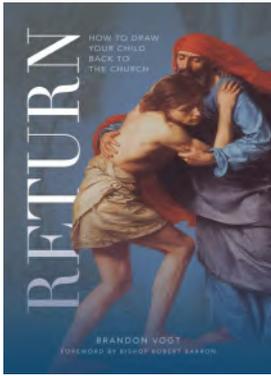
In today's readings, we hear descriptions of Isaiah's lips touched by a burning ember, Paul being transformed from persecutor to preacher, and the fishermen dropping their nets to follow Jesus. In each case, that turning point led to a life of witness. We may not have such a dramatic story to share, but most of us can look back and see turning points: That influential teacher, the aunt who saw the best in us, a priest, sister, or retreat leader who spoke to our hearts. Today's readings can encourage us to be that person for others – the one who shows them the love of Christ and what a difference it can make. Buoyed by God's grace, we can share the Good News with others and accompany one another as we seek to follow Jesus in our day-to-day lives.

ACT Carve out time to do something spiritual you've been putting off – whether it's a retreat, morning prayer, or perhaps volunteering in a parish ministry or other organization.



“COME AFTER
ME AND I WILL
MAKE YOU
fishers of men.”

Getty Images/ArvidKornbluh/istock / Getty Images Plus



RETURN

How to Draw Your Child Back to the Church

Brandon Vogt

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St. Thomas Aquinas Parish Book-Study Notes

Join us for our next session on Tuesday, February 8 from 6-7 pm in the parish basement. You do not need to have completed the readings to participate, though it would help you contribute in the small-group discussions.

Copies of the book are available for purchase online, or at the parish offices for \$7

**Tuesdays
6:00-7:00 PM**

- **February 8**
Chps. 7-8, pgs. 79-103
- **February 15**
Chps. 9-11, pgs. 104-140
- **February 22**
Chps. 13-13, pgs. 141-176

Chapter Four: The Basics

-Now that we've looked at why young people leave the Church and where they're going, we can start thinking about ways we can be proactive in drawing them back to the Church.

-Parents play a key role in the process, but there are five mistakes which can drive them further from the Church:

1. Forcing them to go to Mass- Active participation in Mass is the end goal, the fruit of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Forcing young-adults will only lead them to resist all the more.
2. Criticizing their lifestyle- Our goal is not merely behavior modification-it's a thriving relationship with Jesus in the Church. You'll be tuned out if you're always leading with moral commandment (sometimes it may be necessary)
3. Nagging them- The Church proposes, she doesn't impose. Invite your child back respectfully, with unconditional love, not through guilt trips and expressions of disappointment.
4. Dismissing their objections- Take their objections to the faith seriously and have respect for their concerns- even if they're misguided.
5. Assuming you can change them- You can influence your children, but their ultimate choice is out of your control.

-There are five thresholds that your child (and all of us) need to cross on their journey to becoming an intentional disciple of Jesus:

1. Initial trust- Simply having a positive association with Jesus, the Church, a Catholic, etc. Some don't even have this if they've been seriously hurt by the Church.
2. Spiritual curiosity- Intrigued and curious about matters of the faith without an openness of changing their life.
3. Spiritual openness- An openness to make a change in their life
4. Spiritual seeking- From passive openness to an active search

5. Intentional discipleship- Conscious commitment to follow Christ in his Church

-“No strategy for reaching your child will have any lasting effect if the underlying goal isn’t to help him see Jesus clearly and befriend him personally...[We should always have in our minds] ‘My goal is to show my child Christ.’”

-Discussion Question: What’s the next threshold I think my child needs to cross?

Chapter Five: Pray, Fast, and Sacrifice

-Prayer, fasting, and offering up sacrifices for your child should become normative practices.

1. Prayer

-The story of St. Monica’s relentless praying for her son, St. Augustine, should inspire us all.

-A priest once counseled her: “Speak less to Augustine about God and more to God about Augustine.”

-Pray for an “Ambrose” to step into your child’s life (a friend or mentor other than family who can influence your child).

-Challenges us to pause and ask ourselves: Do I believe that my prayers actually make any difference? Am I taking the time to pray every day (perhaps through conversation with God, rosary, novenas, Holy Hours, chaplet of Divine Mercy)

2. Fasting and Offering up Sufferings

-Fasting helps detach us from the world and draw closer to God. It also deepens the power of our intercessory prayer.

-Each time you face a difficult situation at home or work, you can pray “Lord, I offer this sacrifice to you for the sake of my child.”

-Prayer, combined with fasting and offering up sacrifices, may not seem immediately effective, but our faith trusts it makes a difference.

-Discussion Question: What form of prayer/fasting for my child can I resolve to start doing?

Chapter Six: Equip Yourself

-You can’t give what you don’t have. You need to be able to know the “what’s” and the “why’s” about your faith in order to be able to explain it well.

-You don’t need to have expert-level knowledge, sometimes a humble “I’m not sure, let me get back to you on that” is better than jumbling together something inauthentic.

-The two key sources for our ongoing faith formation is the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

-There are a ton of other good resources out there in video, podcast and book form to educate you on certain topics.

-Some recommendations: Catholic.com, “Ascension Presents” Youtube Channel, Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture series, books by Trent Horn, Dr. Scott Hahn, Peter Kreeft, Bishop Fulton Sheen, Essential Catholic Survival Guide

-Though knowing Catholic “data” is important, also important to know your own story. Why are you Catholic? How has the Church positively shaped your life? Our testimony has the power to build up someone’s faith, no matter how uneventful it may seem to us.

-Discussion Question: Why are you Catholic?

Health & Safety of Nancy & Tom Groll & Slasinski Families
Learman – Koratich Families
In Loving Memory of Robert Chaklos
Edward & Virginia Hoewe Family
L&D Pesta & Bruzewski Families
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Meyer & Streng Families

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