

# Pentecost



**All of us have been baptized into one and the same Spirit, who bears witness that we are children of God. The same Spirit, the Advocate, was given as a gift to the disciples to teach them everything and to strengthen them to go forth in the name of the Lord, “to renew the face of the earth.”**

- The Order of Prayer

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church**

5376 State Street  
Saginaw, MI 48603  
989-799-2460

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## Father Rick's Reflections . . .



Often, people refer to Pentecost as the “*birthday of the Church*.” When we listen to the scriptures, we hear the Holy Spirit described as Comforter or Paraclete, which translates from the Greek as *Helper* or *Advocate*. Earlier in John’s gospel, Jesus tells the disciples that he will leave them, but that the Father will send them another Advocate, one that will teach them everything and remind them of all they have been taught. This Advocate that will come to them is “*the Spirit of truth*” who will be with them always. As the third person of the Holy Trinity, one way the Holy Spirit may be understood is as the active presence of God that enacts the will of God. In Genesis as the world was formed, we are told that a mighty wind swept over the waters before God spoke light into existence. With the Word, creation came into being, and God’s Spirit caused it to be so.

It could be argued that the presence or the anointing of the Holy Spirit is an essential ingredient at the beginning of ministry and for its success. In John’s gospel, before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist testified, “*I saw the Spirit come down like a dove from the sky and remain upon him.*” This

confirmed for John that the one he just baptized was indeed the prophesized Son of God, the one whom John heralded. Luke’s gospel give the account of Jesus announcing to those gathered in the synagogue the words of the prophet Isaiah, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon he, because he has anointed me . . .*” This, after he was tempted in the desert by the devil. Luke informs us that not only was Jesus filled with the Spirit (through baptism), but he was also in the power of the Spirit – filled with the indwelling power of the Spirit and anointed. To anoint is to confer a special and specific designation, one that denotes separation and is intended for use that is holy. While one is typically anointed with oil, to be anointed with the Spirit is particular, indeed, and implies a designation and capacity that comes from God.

Just as Jesus began his public ministry after being imbued with the power of the Spirit, the disciples, newly reconstituted as twelve, were told to journey to Jerusalem where they would receive “power” when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Now that Jesus had physically departed, it was important that the disciples receive the power of the Holy Spirit as they began public ministry in Jesus’ stead. Of course, as conveyed in the first reading, the Spirit of God was poured out on all who were present on the day of Pentecost, for in Scripture, we see the physical manifestations of the Spirit as wind or breath, fire, and a dove.

We, too, are “sealed” with the Spirit through the sacrament of confirmation, which prepares and strengthens us for ministry, our service to the Body of Christ. Jesus empowered the disciples to continue his work when he breathed on them and empowered them. Our bodies are even temples of the Holy Spirit, according to St Paul. Pentecost serves as a reminder of the gift of God’s Spirit, bestowed so that we may have power for service and guidance from the Advocate who will remind us of all truth and be with us always.



Sr. Rebecca Shimas

(Continued on page 6)

## 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.

## In Our Parish

**Tuesday, June 7**  
NO Mass

**Wednesday, June 8**  
NO Mass

**Thursday, June 9**  
8:30 AM Mass

**Saturday, June 11**  
4:00 PM Mass

**Sunday, June 12**  
9:30 AM Mass  
*Summer Schedule*

**Private Prayer Time**  
**\*\*Summer Hours\*\***

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



### **For the Week of June 05, 2022**

Sunday	Pentecost Sunday Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17; Jn 20:19-23
Monday	Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7; Jn 19:25-34
Tuesday	1 Kgs 17:7-16; Ps 4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Mt 5:13-16
Wednesday	1 Kgs 18:20-39; Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11; Mt 5:17-19
Thursday	Memorial of Saint Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor of the Church 1 Kgs 18:41-46; Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13; Mt 5:20-26
Friday	1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16; Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14; Mt 5:27-32
Saturday	Memorial of Saint Barnabas, Apostle Acts 11:21b-26; 12:1-3; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6; Mt 5:33-37
Sunday	The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity Prv 8:22-31; Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16:12-15



# Pentecost Sunday

## **First Reading: Acts 2:1-11**

Pentecost was a Jewish feast that celebrated the beginning of the harvest. It took place 50 days after the feast of Passover. Jewish pilgrims came to Jerusalem from all over the ancient world for the celebration. Today we hear how Pentecost became a Christian feast.

## **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13**

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians responds to a letter they wrote to him. They had asked him how to deal with the diversity of gifts in the community, and the rivalries and jealousies that inevitably arose. In today's passage, he uses a comparison that we will recognize immediately.

**OR**

## **Second Reading: Romans 8:8-17**

Today's passage comes from chapter eight of Paul's letter to the Romans, which stresses the importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians. Paul wants us to remember that the Spirit who will raise our bodies on the last day is the same Spirit who inspires us to holiness every day. Today Paul offers a sharp contrast between life in the flesh (meaning, life prone to sin) and life in Spirit.

## **Gospel Reflection: John 20:19-23**

Pentecost is not just one day. Pentecost is every day. The Spirit of God still breathes in all who believe and daily take in the Lord's presence, grace and power. We celebrate the Spirit –the great love that binds the Father to the Son, and now binds us to God and one another. Our Risen Lord gives the gift of the Spirit and inaugurates the mission of the church. The Spirit of God enables us to re-create our world in the love of God who loved us enough to become one of us.

For your reflection: The Spirit brings love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. How have you experienced this through others, in yourself?

## **Stewardship Reflections**

"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you."

John 14:26

The materialism of our society lures us to concentrate more on what we want than on what God wants for us. The relativism of our world tells us that we should be tolerant of all things, that there is no absolute truth. Pray to the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and to guide our thoughts, words and actions. What you put in your head, heart and mind affects your actions. Put good things in and good things will come out.

## **Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**

Today's gospel tells us God actually wants to take up residence in your family, "We will come and make our home with you." Every family is called to be a tabernacle where God dwells. Is Jesus a permanent member of your family or a temporary guest? Today the promise is given. The choice is ours.



## Special News

Every 5 years the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters have a special international meting to set a direction for their future and to elect new Congregational leaders. The Sisters request your prayer as they prepare and hold their General Charter on June 12-26, 2033 in Reading, PA.

## Prayers



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

**Kelly G.  
Jerry M.  
Lisa A.  
Tom K.  
Tim R.  
Brian  
Lisa  
Jo Vitu  
Laurie Posekany  
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 June 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.*

### Prayer for the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters

Gracious god, we thank You for Your great love and infinite mercy.

We know You are always with us and we trust in Your Divine Providence.

We ask You to be present with the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters as they prepare for their General Chapter.

Enlighten them, guide them, and bless them.

Unite us with You, loving God, and with the Sisters as they strive to live out the universal mission of the Church, welcoming and serving all as brother and sister. Amen.

## In Our Parish

### Anniversary Blessings

May God continue to bless **Craig & Kathleen Horn** as they celebrate 40 years of faith filled marriage. Craig and Kathleen were married June 5, 1982 at St. Paul of the Cross Church, Detroit, MI.

### KC #4232 Morning Parish Breakfast • June 19 • 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Includes scrambled eggs, pancakes, hash browns, sausage, coffee, juice and milk. Adults \$9.00; ages 6-12, \$5.00 & Under 5 Free. **All proceeds go to St. Thomas Aquinas**

### Graduation Liturgy 2022 • June 4 & 5

All graduates are invited to join us at the weekend Masses on June 4 & 5 to honor all the graduating seniors, high school, college/university or a trade school from our parish. We hope you can share in this liturgy with your family and fellow graduates. If possible, send senior picture and school to the Parish Office [office@stasaginaw.org](mailto:office@stasaginaw.org) no later than June 2.



### St. Thomas Aquinas First Friday Memorial

The Parish Office is still receiving new or renewal memorials for the St. Thomas Aquinas First Friday Memorial that will begin mid-June, for an offering of \$50.00. Your memorial line will be printed on the back of the bulletin for one year and will be remembered in the daily intentions on the First Friday. Please use the application from the bulletin or you may find applications in the narthex and parish office. Please return by mail, drop off to the parish office or placed in the collection basket.

### Food Program Outreach • Old Town Christian Outreach • June 4 & 5

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'.

# 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.

(Continued from page 2)

This week, we lift Fr Kevin up in prayer as he will be on retreat, preparing for his new assignment and move. On Tuesday and Wednesday, I will be in class to be a priest mentor to our younger priests and foreign-born priests who serve in our diocese. There are about 12 of us that have been asked to serve in this ministry. Because of this, there will be no

morning Masses on Tuesday and Wednesday this week.

Just a reminder that on Wednesday evening, we will have a social gathering for Finance and Pastoral Councils. You should have received information about this gathering.

Now that school is out for summer, we return to our summer

Parish Office hours. The parish office will be open Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4 pm. The office will be closed on Fridays through Labor Day weekend. Watch for children playing and drive safe if traveling for vacation.

*Fr. Rick*

## Around Our Parish

### **Emmaus House of Saginaw • Car Wash • June 18**

Stop by on Saturday, June 18 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM to support Emmaus House at their Car Wash Fundraiser at the 7-11 Store on the corner of Tittabawassee & Midland Roads.

### **Do you want a deeper relationship with God?**

Do you want to learn more about the Catholic faith? Do you feel you are being called to more? The Lay Ecclesial Formation may be the answer to your call! It's not too late to apply for this upcoming year. We have extended the application period, but hurry to reserve your slot in this wonderful adult formation. Seminars meet monthly September through May. The seminars are on Friday evenings and all-day Saturday, one time per month, so it is perfect for most working people. For more information and any questions, please contact the Coordinator of Lay Ecclesial Ministry: Deb Popielarz at [dpopielarz@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:dpopielarz@dioceseofsaginaw.org) or call 989-797-6660.

### **Walking with Moms in Need Meeting**

All Walking with Moms in Need Vicariate/Parish Representatives, and all others who are interested in learning more about or becoming involved in this ministry, are invited to gather on Tuesday, June 7, at



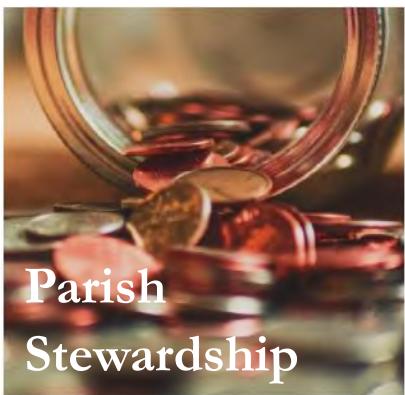
1:30 p.m., at the Center for Ministry for an information sharing meeting. This meeting will be in-person with a virtual option for those who choose not to travel. If you want to join in via Zoom, please email or call Beth Bauer so that a link can be sent to you: 989-797-6655 or [bbauer@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:bbauer@dioceseofsaginaw.org)

### **World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, Portugal**

Join Bishop Gruss and other young adults from the Diocese of Saginaw as they travel to Lisbon, Portugal to celebrate World Youth Day 2023, from July 30 – August 7. The trip includes World Youth Day events, an excursion to Fatima, and Mass with the Pope. For information and to register, click on the following link: <https://www.ctcentral.net/trips/libson/saginaw-messing-wyd-20230730/>

### **WYD Informational Meetings**

World Youth Day Informational Meetings have been scheduled for Wednesday, June 1, from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (specifically for Youth Ministers, Faith Formation Leaders and/or Parish Representatives; lunch will be provided) and Monday, June 6, from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. The meetings will cover the basics of the pilgrimage (hotel, price, payment plan, registration process, etc.). It will also include the 'why' of WYD, best practices with fundraising, and practical preparation. Come learn and get your questions answered about this amazing experience! Please RSVP to Amy Dore at [adore@dioceseofsaginaw.org](mailto:adore@dioceseofsaginaw.org) or call 989.797.6654.



## Parish Stewardship

One miracle of Pentecost was that, despite their diversity, each listener heard God's word in his or her own language. The meaning for stewardship is that, by sharing the gifts poured out on us by the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters, whatever they may be.

**May 29, 2022**

Due to the holiday, the financial stewardship to St Thomas Aquinas for the weekend of May 29, 2022 will be reported in next weeks bulletin.

**Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas in your estate planning.**

## Sponsor of the Week

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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

**Pastor** ..... Fr. Richard Bokinskie  
[rickb@stasaginaw.org](mailto:rickb@stasaginaw.org)

**Parochial Vicar** .. Fr. Kevin Wojciechowski  
[kevinw@stasaginaw.org](mailto:kevinw@stasaginaw.org)

**Deacon** ..... Deacon Gary Patelski  
[gapatelski@aol.com](mailto:gapatelski@aol.com)

**Pastoral Associate** ..Sr. Ann deGuise, OSF  
[annd@stasaginaw.org](mailto:annd@stasaginaw.org)

**Parish Secretary**..... Dawn Drago  
[dawnd@stasaginaw.org](mailto:dawnd@stasaginaw.org)

**Bookkeeper**..... Pat Messing  
[patm@stasaginaw.org](mailto:patm@stasaginaw.org)

**Baptism & Funeral Coordinator &  
RCIA Director** .....Karen Bartels  
[starcia@stasaginaw.org](mailto:starcia@stasaginaw.org)

**Music Accompanist** .... Deborah Kraklow  
[debk@stasaginaw.org](mailto:debk@stasaginaw.org)

**Watch Mass  
On-line**

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

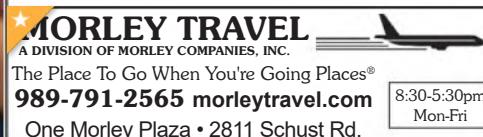
Please notify the parish office when seriously ill at home, in the hospital or a nursing/assisted facility. Also, If you or a loved one has had a hospital stay and are recovering at a rehab facility or moving into an assisted living facility and wish a pastoral visit.

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Raymond Klonowski  
M. James Robinson Family  
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Bob & Vi Bloniarczyk  
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Al Luplow Family  
Lois Zehnder  
LaVern Fox  
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