

20th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

St. Thomas Aquinas Church

5376 State Street

Saginaw, MI 48603

989-799-2460

www.stasaginaw.org

Father Rick's Reflections . . .



The Jewish heritage of Jesus is full of imagery of elusive, purifying fire. God speaks out of it; the pillar of God's fiery presence leads the Hebrews through the desert nights; sparks out on Sinai; burns in temple lampstands of pure gold; licks up the water of Carmel and anoints the lips of prophets. We may be most conscious of fire at the Easter Vigil when we gather around the Easter fire. The leaping flames celebrate the fulfillment of Jesus' strong desire and determination to engulf the church with the fire of his Spirit after he has suffered the *"baptism by fire"* of his passion and death.

Those who follow Jesus will not only be warned and enlightened by him; inevitably, they will also feel the painful heat of their association. Sadly, some aspects of even the most intimate relationships with family and friendship may be scorched, or even totally destroyed. Earlier in Luke's gospel, John the Baptist spoke of a baptism that would be greater than his purificatory rite – a baptism with the fire of the Holy

Spirit that the Messiah would enkindle. Those whose lives were husks, empty of any repentance or commitment to the Coming One, would not be harvested into the kingdom, but would be burned in *"unquenchable fire."* Read in context, what John is speaking about are issues of social justice – sharing with the disadvantaged, nonviolence, and economic integrity. From the time he announced his mission in the Nazareth synagogue, this was also the burning commitment of Jesus.

A fire that was familiar to the inhabitants of Jerusalem was the garbage being burned regularly in the Valley of Hinnon (Gehenna) just outside the city. But there is another and blessed fire that is to be lit from the person of Jesus himself, who burns with a wild love for the world. This is emphasized by the personal repetition – *"I have some," "I wish," "I must be baptized," "I have come" (a second time), "I tell you."* For Jesus to speak of himself in the first person in the Synoptic Gospels is extremely rare. It is an indication of the urgency that he wishes to communicate to his listeners. The adult Jesus who is speaking was the child whose birth was announced as heralding peace but was also recognized by Simeon as a source of division. The two are not incompatible. Jesus' peace is not a warm, fuzzy glow, a comfortable satisfaction with the status quo. Rather, it is a burning decisiveness that results from the self-discovery and discernment Jesus experienced in the wilderness – that place of temptation and commitment. Out of the wilderness he was driven on

mission by the power of the Spirit, ready to live, suffer, and die for his God and the salvation of the world.

Monday, August 15, is the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Normally, this is a holy day of obligation but since it falls on a Monday, we are dispensed from the obligation of attending Mass this day. There will be Mass on Monday evening, 6 pm, at the Cathedral with Bishop Gruss and an ice cream social to follow.

Lately, there are two questions I get from parishioners. First, how is my Aunt Lois doing? She seems to be holding her own and settling into her new reality. In fact, in her feisty way, she canceled hospice for the time being. Second question, how is Fr Kevin doing? I heard from him a couple of weeks ago. He was visiting with someone from the area. As they were sitting in his backyard overlooking M-25, two cars went by at the same time. This led to his visitor to remark, *"Wow, you live on a busy road!"* Fr Kevin remarked, *"You should have seen the road I was living on."* Sounds like he is doing well.

(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, August 16

8:30 AM Mass

Wednesday, August 17

8:30 AM Mass

Thursday, August 18

8:30 AM Mass

Saturday, August 20

4:00 PM Mass

Sunday, August 21

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.



Readings for the Week of August 14, 2022

Sunday

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10; Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18; Heb 12:1-4; Lk 12:49-53

Monday

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16; 1 Cor 15:20-27; Lk 1:39-56

Tuesday

Memorial of Saint Stephen of Hungary

Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30,35c; Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday

Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-3A, 3b-4, 5, 6; Mt 20:1-16

Thursday

Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14

Friday

Memorial of Saint John Eudes, Priest

Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 22:34-40

Saturday Church

Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the

Ez 43:1-7ab; Ps 85:9ab & 10, 11-12, 13-14; Mt 23:1-12

Sunday

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21; Ps 117:1, 2; Heb 12:5-7, 11-13; Lk13:22-30



Mary Ann Pawlik

Roy Pine

Lord, we remember in our prayers Mary Ann and Roy whom you have called to be with you. May the calming peace of your love be with their families. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may the perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

In 597 B.C., Babylon defeated Jerusalem, and thousands of Jewish leaders and citizens were taken into exile. The prophet Jeremiah was among those left behind. When he preached trust in God rather than armed revolution, the people considered him a traitor.

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:1-4

Commonly referred to as a letter, Hebrews is really a lengthy sermon that encourages people to remain faithful in difficult times. In the previous section of this book, the author cited Old Testament witnesses who had done just that. Now, the author points out the greatest example of fidelity.

Gospel Reflection: Luke 12:49-53

The gospel way is not a soft, easy message to embrace or live. Jesus does not sugarcoat his message: even families and households will be divided over the hard demands of the gospel of reconciliation, non-violence, justice and peace. God calls us not to seek power or status, but to “submerge” ourselves in the spirit of truth, compassion and humility.

For your reflection: Have you ever found yourself at odds with someone you deeply care about over the teaching and ways of Jesus? How did you handle it?

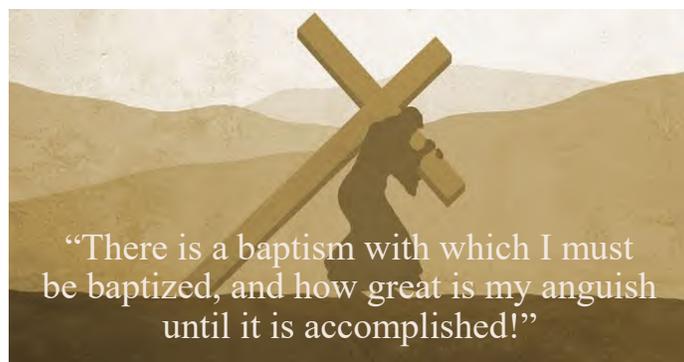
Stewardship Reflections

“Do you think I have come to give you peace on Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” Luke 12:51

Many of us like to play it safe, not cause waves with our family and friends, especially when it comes to politics and religion. We don't want to cause any turmoil. However, many times this is at the expense of the truth. The truth being Jesus Christ. Too many people are misguided because they rely on their own limited human ability to reason and are not allowing faith in God to guide them. Form your conscience; take a stance for life, marriage and religious liberty.

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

Today Jesus warns us his Word will create conflict between parents and children. In a permissive society which advocates individualism and consumerism, parents must continue to teach and live the gospel values of respect, service to others, forgiveness, generosity and compassion. A Christian family is a countercultural family.



Prayers



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

Tom K.
Lois B.
Linda Smith
Tessa Mary
Olivia Monsour
Harold G.
Larry S.
Joann G.
Dennis Boswell

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 September 2. Please remember to contact the office 799-2460 ext. 1 when a loved one's name no longer needs inclusion on the prayer list.

**What you are is
God's gift
to you.
What you make
of yourself
is your gift
to God.**

YOUTH CORNER

Attention all students in Grades 7 – 12

It is time to start thinking about getting involved in our upcoming Youth Masses. They will be held on the third Sunday of the month at 11:00 Mass, beginning on October 16.

ALL STUDENTS: You are invited to participate in various liturgical ministries, including lectors, greeters, ushers, cross bearer, singers, musicians, and altar servers. For those who are over 16 and have been Confirmed, you may want to consider becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC).

MUSICIANS: If you play an instrument, I'd like to hear from you as soon as possible, so we can finalize the music and get practice copies to you. For singers, it would be nice to have a group in the choir area to lead the singing. If any of you like to harmonize, we can include that as well. Finally, if you would like to be the cantor for the Mass (the person who proclaims the psalm), contact me soon, so I can give you the music to practice. Your ministry will also count for service hours. Musicians and singers also get credit for our rehearsal time.

To sign up or get more information, please call Deb at the office (extension 5), or email at: debk@stasaginaw.org. You can also see me at the piano after Mass.



In Our Parish

Anniversary Blessings

May God continue to bless Craig & Teri Bohnhoff as they celebrate 40 years of faith filled marriage. Craig & Teri were married August 14, 1982 here at St. Thomas Aquinas Church.

Baptism

We welcomed into the faith community through the waters of baptism **Sorin Lynn Suchocki**, son of Brian and Katie (Wilke) Suchocki. May God bless his and his family as he becomes a Disciple of Christ.

RCIA Inquires

Inquiries for those wishing to learn more about the Catholic tradition will begin soon for adults and youth who are unbaptized or baptized in another Christian tradition and wish to prepare for the sacraments of First Eucharist and/or Confirmation. Please contact the Parish Office 799-2460 X1 or email starcia@stasaginaw.org.

Food Program Outreach • Old Town Christian Outreach • August 20 & 21

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.

Thank you

Thank you to all who donated to the BBB Challenge. We were able to fill the shelves of your generosity. Watch for the next challenge in September.

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.

(counted from page 2)

It is hard to believe that a week from Monday is the beginning of school for Nouvel Catholic Central schools. Which means, also, that we will be returning to Thursday mornings being a school Mass starting September 1st. Watch out for the children running around and preparing for the new school year. Let us pray that the new year be a

safe and profitable one.
Have a blessed week.



Thank you

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur ministries wishes to thank you for the welcome you extended to Sr. Judy Clemens SNDdeN on our recent visit to your parish. On behalf of the poorest of the poor, your parish collected \$4,227. May our Lord continue to bless all of you for your love and support.

Around Our Parish

Emmaus Grief Retreat for Parents - Diocese of Saginaw

The loss of a child is a source of tremendous pain, grief, and distress. To accompany grieving families, on November 5, 2022 the Diocese is offering an Emmaus Retreat for Parents who have lost a child of any age, from any cause, no matter how long ago. The retreat will be held at St. Agnes Parish in Freeland, from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., and will include lunch and dinner. This all-day retreat will offer parents an opportunity to come together in fellowship with others walking a similar path, while hearing what the Catholic Church teaches about miscarriage, infant death, suicide, and the hope of Resurrection. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available, and the Vigil Mass will begin at 4:30 p.m. Those attending this retreat are asked to consider a free -will offering to help offset the costs of the day. For more information or to register, please contact Beth Bauer at bbauer@dioceseofsaginaw.org or call 989.797.6655. Space is limited to 26 people.



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Sunday Morning Parish Breakfast

Breakfast fundraiser to benefit St. John Paul II Parish on Sunday, August 21 from 9:00 AM until 12:30 PM at 4840 Shattuck Rd. Breakfast includes scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, pancakes, coffee, juice, and milk. Adults: \$9; Children 6-12: \$5; Children 5 and under: free.



Parish Stewardship

In today's second reading, St. Paul encourages us not to grow weary or lose heart, but to persevere in following Jesus. Our willingness to give of ourselves, even in the face of conflict and division, is one way to measure our discipleship.

August 7, 2022

Envelopes	\$12,409.00
Loose	\$1,116.00
Electronic (ACH)	\$623.00
Brow Bag	\$200.00
Mission Appeal	\$430.00
Total	\$14,778.00

Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas in your estate planning.

Sponsor of the Week

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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.

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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 Bokinski
rckb@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 Director Karen Bartels
starcia@stasaginaw.org

Music Accompanist Deborah Kraklow
debk@stasaginaw.org



Eucharistic Liturgies

Saturday 4:00 PM
Sunday..... *Summer Hours* 9:30 AM
Memorial Day thru Labor Day
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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Raising Funds for the Future of Vocations

Join Bishop Robert Gruss and supporters throughout the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw for events to support the education of future priests and the promotion of vocations in our Diocese.

Golf Outing & Luncheon

Wednesday, September 14, 2022
\$100 each/\$400 per foursome

Swan Valley Golf Club & Banquet Center
9521 Highland Green Drive, Saginaw

Morning ~ limited to 100 golfers; fills up fast
7 a.m. ~ Registration and breakfast
8 a.m. ~ Shotgun start
12:30 p.m. ~ Luncheon and awards

Afternoon

12:15 p.m. ~ Registration and luncheon
1:15 p.m. ~ Shotgun start
Reception and awards following golf

Banquet & Silent Auction

Thursday, September 15, 2022
\$75 each/\$560 table of eight

DoubleTree by Hilton
1 Wenonah Park Place, Bay City

5:30 p.m. ~ Hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and
silent auction
6:45 p.m. ~ Dinner and program

Entertainment by some of the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw's talented priests ~ *plus* some surprises for those who register early.

All proceeds from these events provide for the educational expenses of our current seminarians and nurturing and discernment of new vocations.

To register for either event, contact the diocesan Stewardship and Development Department at 989-797-6693 or email Tammy Heinlein at theinlein@dioceseofsaginaw.org

To learn about sponsorships or contributions, or to discuss donation of an auction item, contact Geri Rudolf at 989-797-6679 or email grudolf@dioceseofsaginaw.org

Or go to www.saginaw.org/golf for more details.



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 For Those in Need in Our Parish
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