

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to

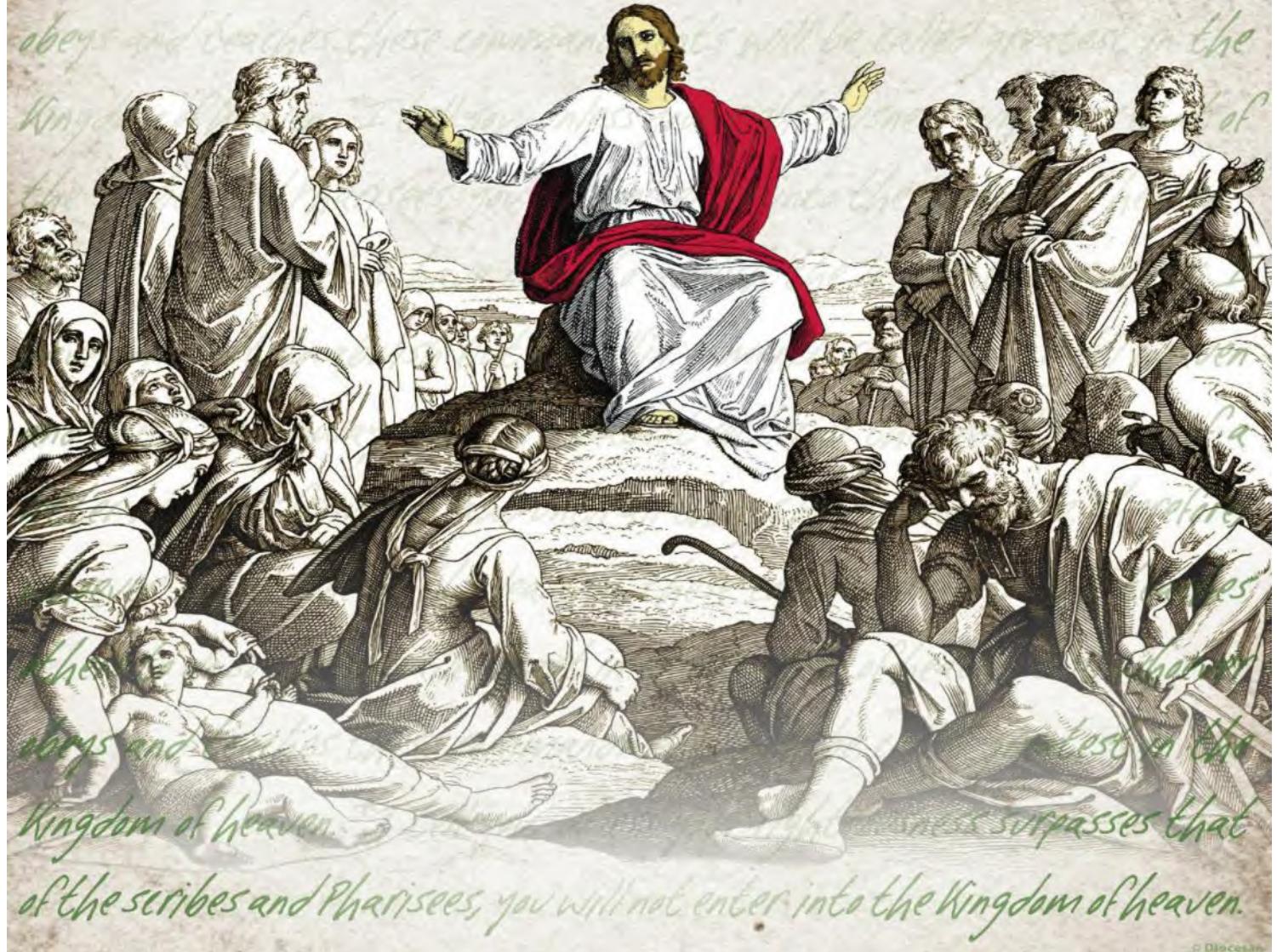
6TH SUNDAY

abolish them, but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter will pass away from the law, until all the smallest part of a letter will pass away.

in Ordinary Time

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill."

- Mt 5:17



St. Thomas Aquinas Church

5376 State Street

Saginaw, MI 48603

989-799-2460

www.stasaginaw.org

Father Rick's Reflections . . .



The church has always insisted upon the inseparability of the Old Testament and the New Testament. Today's gospel offers us an example of "rereading" the Old Testament, the Scriptures that nourished the faith and discernment of Jesus. As he says, Jesus does not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets, but to carry forward to its fulfillment the movement of transcending, interiorizing, stripping away empty externals and legalistic minutiae that had distorted God's revelation. Some of the scribes and Pharisees, the Scripture scholars and lay leaders of their day, bore responsibility for this when they were so arrogantly sure of their interpretation that they could see no farther than their own narrow point of view. The Pharisees had a fierce dedication to carry out God's will, but this could lead them to place unattainable burdens on others and themselves, with the consequence that their own failures might result in hypocritical and vehement cover-ups. We also need to remember that the gospel writers were well aware that neither of these groups is historically self-contained. In every Christian community, there are also "scribes and Pharisees":

learned but self-serving people, and hypocrites whose external religious masks can hide an irreligious heart.

So Jesus focuses not so much on the evils of murder, adultery, or lying, but on the way these take root in the human heart. In other words, he proposes a radical reinterpretation of the teaching. We can look askance at the end point of the continuum of evil and yet not recognize the subtle and dangerous first point when we begin to orient our lives in that direction. Anger, hostility, and insults do not belong in the Christian community, for these are the seedbed of the sin of murder that destroys God's sacred gift of life to another human being.

Sexuality also is a gift from God and not to be abused. Jesus names male lust for and oppressive attitudes toward women as adultery in the heart. Sexual drives cannot dominate a person's life but need to be integrated into a life which is lived according to gospel values. To show the seriousness of this, Jesus uses the literary (not "literal") device of exaggeration, the plucking out of an eye or the cutting off of a hand, which is to be preferred to the mutilating effect of unbridled sexual abuse. Jesus is critical of the easy divorce, based on self-interest, that men could often obtain from their wives. Biblical scholars debate what the sexual irregularity, what Matthew calls "porneia," was that made divorce permissible. The contemporary status of divorced people in today's church and the most pastoral way of ministering to them is still one of our most pressing questions and quests.

Jesus shares the Hebrew horror at the abuse of calling on God to bolster the claims of a false oath. There should be such integrity and truthfulness in the Christian community that there is no need to bring God into the situation as an additional and "reliable" witness to the too-much protesting. A straightforward "yes" or "no," with no oath-taking at all, should be sufficient.

"Let your
'YES'
mean
'YES,'
and your
'NO'
mean
'NO.'"

This past week, the threat of violence hit close to home with the hoax of a shooter at Nouvel Catholic Central High School. It put everyone on edge because of misinformation and the lack of true information until the scene was determined and understood. We need to be vigilant and protective of our children. To some people, such a threat is "fun." That is not a gospel value we are to practice. Nor is the gossip of spreading half-truths or rumors as well. May we use this as an opportunity to prepare in our minds and hearts our responses in the future.



(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.

Prayers

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

Lois B.
Larry S.
Harold G.
Tom M.
Pat M.
Al V.

Monica

David B.

Ivor Alcorn II

Tom K.

Charlie

Michael

Robert V.

Marley

Steve O.

Ron & Pat V.

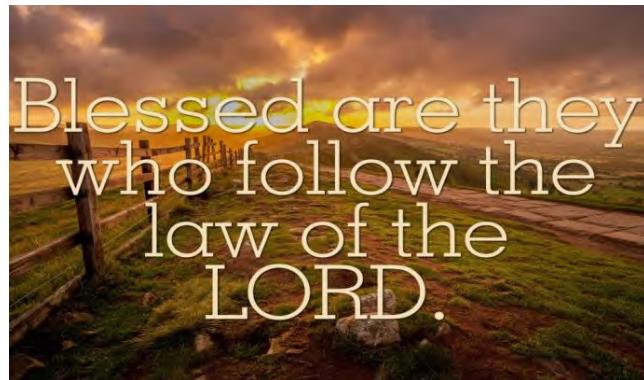
Bob B.



Nancy B.
Ren
Bob L.

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.



Scripture Readings for the Week of February 12, 2023

Sunday	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37
Monday	Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday	Memorial of Saints Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a & 2; 3ac-4, 3b & 9c-10; Mk 8:41-21
Wednesday	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday	Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 & 22-23; Mk 8:27-33
Friday	Gn 11:1-9; Ps 33:10-11, 12-13; 14-15; Mk 8:34-9:1
Saturday	Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2-13
Sunday	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48



Mass
8:30 AM
with NCCE School Community

Mass
7:00 PM

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

The book of Sirach was written by a wise teacher who lived 200 years before Christ. Sirach ran a school for young people in Jerusalem. In today's passage, he urges his students to make the right choices in life.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Paul continues to address the Corinthian community, who criticized him because, according to Greek standards, he lacked wisdom. To the Greeks, wisdom meant a certain pattern of logical reasoning that followed fixed forms. In this reading, Paul speaks of a wisdom that is far greater than this.

Stewardship Reflections

"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20

The scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules out of obligation, not love, does not put you on the path to heaven. Attending Mass on Sunday and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of a modern day Pharisee.

Family Perspective by Bud Ozar

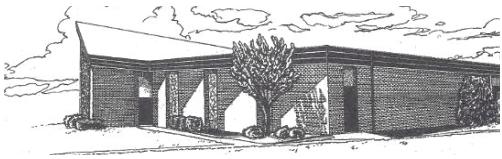
To experience the peace which Christ promises we must shed our grudges, jealousy and feelings of being misunderstood, unappreciated or ignored. Peace and anger don't mix. Today's gospel warns, if you want peace in your heart and home, get rid of your anger. Anger is too costly.

Individual Rite of Penance "Confessions"
2nd & 4th Saturday of the month
9:00-10:00am

February 25



In Our Parish



Tuesday, February 14

8:30 AM Mass

Wednesday, February 15

8:30 AM Mass
1:00 PM Christian Service Committee
6:30 PM Worship Committee

Thursday, February 16

8:30 AM Mass w/ NCCE-MS Community

Saturday, February 18

4:00 PM Mass

Sunday, February 19

8:30AM Mass
11:00 AM Youth Mass

Private Prayer Time

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

WINTER WEATHER POLICY

If Saginaw Township and/or Nouvel Catholic Central Schools are delayed or closed because of weather, there will be no morning Mass.

BIBLE STUDY & SHARING • WEDNESDAYS 10:00 AM

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

Special News

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Knights of Columbus Council 4232 is accepting Scholarship Applications.

The Following students are Eligible:

- ~ 2023 High School Graduate
- ~ Student or Parent must be Active and Registered with one of the following Parishes: St John Vianney; Christ the Good Shepherd; St Thomas Aquinas, St Dominic and St John Paul II Parish (*parent does not need to be a Knight*)
- ~ Child of K of C Council 4232 member who belongs to another Parish
- ~ Student must be accepted by an Accredited College or University
- ~ Must be a full time College Student (*12 or more credit hours*)
- ~ Applications can be found online at: kofc4232.org
- ~ Completed Applications are due: **April 5, 2023**, to either your parish office or mailed to: Knights of Columbus Scholarship 4840 Shattuck Saginaw, Mi 48603

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4232 •

SUNDAY MORNING PARISH BREAKFAST •

Breakfast fundraiser to benefit **ST. THOMAS AQUINAS** on Sunday, **February 19** from 9:00am until 12:00pm. Breakfast includes scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns, pancakes, coffee, juice, and milk. Adults: \$9; Children 6-12: \$5; Children 5 and under: free.



St. Thomas Aquinas News

RETURNING OF PALMS

You are invited to bring in your OLD PALMS to the gathering area and deposit them in the basket. We will then burn them and use the ashes for the Ash Wednesday services.



FOOD PROGRAM OUTREACH •

EAST SIDE SOUP KITCHEN • FEBRUARY 18 & 19

The food collection for next weekend will be for the EAST SIDE SOUP KITCHEN. Thank you for your continuing support. ESSK is in always need of the following items: #10 cans of Corn, Green Beans, Carrots, and Peas, Peaches, Pears, and Fruit Cocktail; Applesauce, Pork & Beans; Juice/Kool-Aid Pouches, Small Bottled Water, Yams/Sweet Potatoes, Pudding & Fruit Cups any kind of Packaged Cookies and Cooking Spray. Monetary donations can be sent directly to 940 E. Genesee, Saginaw, MI 48607, checks payable East Side Soup Kitchen.

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)

Next weekend, we are hosting a "Ministry Fair" looking for volunteers for the many ministries that our parish is involved with. We did this back in 2020 just before COVID shut down the parish and world. Now, as we are starting to emerge from the pandemic, it is



time to renew our commitment to the many ministries of the parish.

There will be representatives from the many different ministries available to answer any questions you may have

regarding our ministries. Thank you for volunteering and helping us continue our many ministries.

After some crazy days of weather, it seems like we are starting to settle back into winter-like weather. Again, just a reminder, if Saginaw Township and/or Nouvel Catholic Central schools are closed or delayed because of weather, there is no morning Mass scheduled. Remember that Lent begins on Wednesday, February 22. You can bring your old palms to the Church. Have a blessed week.

F. Pick

Around Our Parish

SAGINAW DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN LENTEN SILENT RETREAT • MARCH 18

The Saginaw Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will offer a Lenten Silent Retreat for all women of the Diocese at the Center for Ministry in Saginaw on Saturday, March 18. The retreat starts at 9:00am (registration begins at 8:30) and will end at approximately 4:00 pm. This year's retreat leader will be Fr. Andy LaFramboise, whose presentation title will be "*Then Their Eyes Were Opened: Kindling Eucharistic Faith.*" Mass, adoration, and Stations of the Cross will be included. The cost for the retreat is \$27 (in advance / incl. morning snack & lunch). RSVP to Rita Maher (989-635-7072) before March 13.

SAGINAW CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE 2023 • SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Featuring Mass with Bishop Gruss at 4:00PM

Speakers Peter Herbeck and Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers Saturday March 25, 2023 8:30AM - 5:00PM at Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption-615 Hoyt Ave, Saginaw, MI 48607. Early bird \$25 pricing thru EventBrite.com ends on March 14, 2023. Walk-up registration starts at 8:00AM on event day. Admission is \$30 paid at the door, lunch included. Priests, Deacons, Religious, & Under 21 -- free admission Questions? call (989) 341-3303. More details at www.thecatholicmen.com. Premier Event Sponsor: Jolt Credit Union

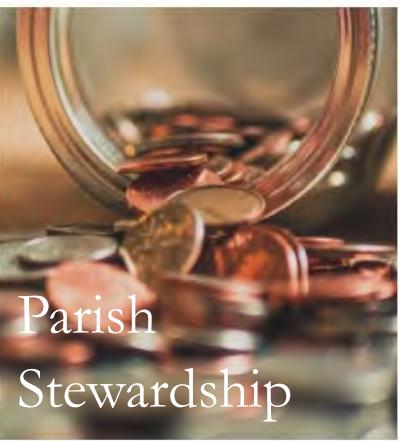
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4232 •

FAMILY BURGER NIGHT MONDAYS

Join us for Family (Burger) Night!!! Every Monday from 5:00-7:00 PM. Serving the best Hamburgers, Cheeseburgers, Hotdogs, and Coney Dogs with those delicious fries or chips. Take outs are also available.

2023 FRIDAY LENTEN FISH FRY

Join us on Fridays of Lent, February 24—April 7 4:30-7:00pm. Dine in or Take out.



Parish Stewardship

Stewardship involves more than just the gift we bring to the altar. Today's readings say clearly that it is fidelity to God's law that makes our offering acceptable.

February 5, 2023

Envelopes	\$23,426.00
Loose	\$743.43
Electronic (ACH)	\$1,243.00
Brown Bag	\$110.00
Children's	\$38.00
Total	\$25,560.43

Please remember St. Thomas Aquinas in your estate planning.

Sponsor of the Week

The Print Shop

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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Saginaw, MI 48603
(989) 799-2460
www.stasaginaw.org

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
rbokinskie@diosag.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

Interim Music Director Deborah Kraklow
debk@stasaginaw.org

Watch Mass On-line

Recorded Mass for Sunday

Eucharistic Liturgies

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

Nouvel Catholic Central Schools

www.NouvelCatholic.org	
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High School	989.791.4330
Elementary	989.792.2361

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Christ Has No Hands, But Ours

Updated 1/30/23

Title	Service Options	Personal Participation	Contact / (Phone)	Possible Time Commitment
BeFriender	Visit on a regular basis parishioners in senior living centers/ homebound	Be a listening presence in the lives of those at senior living centers /homebound.	Carole Watters 989-274-3384	Once a month meeting for about 1 hour and visits are up to the individual
Bible Group	Meet to reflect and share about the reading of the Sunday liturgies	Personal sharing of your faith.	Sandra Burch 989-781-4333 9a – 8p	1.5 hours. Meets on Wednesday 10:00a – 11:30a
Brown Bag Committee	Collect, organize or distribute food to needy	Assist with food preparation for the needy.	Marty Barczak 989-781-4114	1 hour (Mon, Wed, & Thu)
Cantor/ Choir/ Instrumentalist	Praise by leading in song &/or playing piano or other instrument.	Participate in these options.	Deb Kraklow 989-799-2460 x5	Attendance at Mass and 1 hour practice per week from September through May
Committees: Pastoral Council, Christian Service Stewardship	Attend monthly meeting to give input into the life of the parish.	Share your gifts with the parish.	Dawn Drago 989-799-2460 x1	1 hour Once a month, meetings
Deaconate Ministry	A call to serve the church in an ordained ministry	Completion of lay ministry followed by a year of aspirancy and then three years of candidacy before orientation.	Deacon Gary Patelski 989-295-5849	Varies depending upon assignment by Bishop
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) Coordinator for Mass	Distribution of the Eucharist at weekend Masses. Coordinates liturgical ministers for each Mass.	Once every three years Training class – 2 hours.	Dawn Drago 989-799-2460 x1	10 minutes during Mass
Funeral Luncheons	Hospitality to family with lunch in church basement following funeral	Luncheons are catered Assist with the elevator, set-up/clean-up.	Karen Bartels 989-799-2460 x1	1-1 ½ hours
Greeter at Masses	Welcome people as they arrive for Mass	Serve as a greeter for Mass	Dawn Drago 989-799-2460 x1	30 minutes before Mass begins
Lay Ministry	Formation program to prepare and develop lay persons for servant ministry among the people of God.	Two years of formation at Diocese followed by parish commitment.	Deacon Gary Patelski 989-295-5849	1-4 hours per week depending upon commitment

Christ Has No Hands, But Ours

Updated 1/30/23

Title	Service Options	Personal Participation	Contact / (Phone)	Possible Time Commitment
Lector	Proclaiming the Readings and petitions for Mass.	Prepare to proclaim Sunday Readings ahead of time.	Dawn Drago 989-799-2460 x1	Personal preparation time During Mass
Letter Angels	Writing letters to home-bound.	Share upbeat thoughts with an individual.	Dawn Drago 989-799-2460 x1	15-30 minutes monthly
Liturgy of the Word for Children	Celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in a child friendly format at 11 AM Mass	Lead the children with Scripture, reflection & prayer; assist in care for the children.	Sue Smith 989-780-0825	During 11 AM Mass; rotating monthly. personal preparation time
Ministers to the homebound/ senior living centers	Visit those in need: Senior living facilities, homebound, senior living centers.	Represent St. Thomas Aquinas in bringing the Eucharist to the homebound/Senior Living Centers.	Dawn Drago 989-799-2460 x1	1 hour / 2 weeks
Parish Library	Help parishioners find books of interest	Promote Parish Library & Book Cart Weekend.	Sandra Burch (989-781-4333) 9a-7p	Help needed when books come in. Will train.
Prayer Line	Private prays for those in need.	Participate in parish prayer line.	Dawn Drago 989-799-2460 x1	Prayers when called
RCIA Catechist / Helper	Assist the RCIA director in working with candidates who are preparing to receive the sacraments	Small group sessions, working with children, youth, adults.	Karen Bartels 989-799-2460 x1	September through May time varies depending on what your responsibility is
Respect Life / Moms in Need	Meals for new moms & meal/gift cards. Assist in transportation.	Participate in campaigns to change laws, help coordinate prayer groups. Urgent needs when moms are ill and need assistance.	Alyce Wechter 989-799-2460	Varies based on the needs of those served
Sacristan / Washing of Linens	Clean vessels	Washing the sacred vessels after Mass and setting up for the next Mass. Laundering & pressing of linens.	Dawn Drago 989-799-2460 x1	15-20 minutes
Usher	Assisting at Mass as an Usher	Participation during Mass	Dawn Drago 989-799-2460 x1	Arrive about 30 minutes before Mass begins
Worship Committee	Help plan and prepare for Mass including decorations of worship space throughout the year.	Sharing your artistic & creative talent for creating the proper environment for the church seasons.	Sr. Ann deGuise 989-799-2460 x3	Monthly meetings & time spent preparing worship space for liturgical celebrations (varies)
Youth Mass Ministry	Includes lectors, alter servers, singers, cantors, musicians, cross bearer, gift bearers, ushers and greeters.	Participate in Mass	Deb Kraklow 989-799-2460 x5	1 Mass monthly.



1258



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS FIRST FRIDAY MEMORIAL

Tom & Terry Ott
Rozek & Holihan Families
Learnman-Koratich Families
The Klonowski Family
Susan Webber
Edward & Virginia Hoewe Family
Bob & Vi Bloniarczyk
M. James Robinson Family
James & Kathy Gunther
Sitarski Family
Chris Gunther Family
L&D Leo Eigner Family

Rose Martino
Garske & Riha Family
Floyd Maday Family
Ed Meyer & Family
Al Luplow Family
LaVern Fox Family
Blair R. Loessel
The Webster Family
Gerald R. Maczik Family
L. Wizner & Skimbrauskas Families
Health & Safety of Tom & Nancy

L&D Stanley Dorywalski Family
ILM of Edilberto S. Navarra
Health of Remy
For the Souls in Purgatory
Tom Stankiewicz Family
Lopez Family
Ernie & Nickie Jones Family
For Those in Need in Our Parish
Groll & Slasinski Families
Tim & Roz Janteský Family
The Carter Family

John Sauvie Family
Daniel P. Sauvie +
Mary A. Sauvie +
Basil N. Sauvie +
Woodrow J.J. Sauvie +
Gabriel T. Sauvie
Norbert Berent
David Berent
Edward Stanulis
Theresa Stanulis
Shirley Trepkowski

Gerald Fortier
Hill Family
Miller Family
Fred Manalo
Doyle Family
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