



# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

602 Everglade Drive, Madison WI 53717 • (608) 833-2600 • stamadison.org • parish@stamadison.org

## Regular Mass Schedule

**Saturday** ..... 4:30 PM  
**Sunday:** Masses in English..... 8:00 & 10:00 AM  
 Misa en español/Mass in Spanish..... 6:30 PM  
**Monday, Wednesday, Friday** ..... 8:30 AM  
**Tuesday** ..... 5:30 PM  
**Thursday** ..... 7:30 AM

## Confession

**Saturdays,** 3:15–4:10 PM  
**Sundays,** 9:00–9:50 AM

## Prayer, Devotion, and Adoration

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help:** Monday after Mass  
**Chaplet of Divine Mercy:** Wednesday after Mass  
**Morning Prayer:** Thursday after Mass  
**Rosario en español:** Thursday, 6:00–7:00 PM  
**Rosary in English:** Friday, 8:05 AM  
**Adoration:** Monday, 2:00–4:00 PM  
 Tuesday, 4:30–5:25 PM  
 Friday, 9:00–10:00 AM

## Parish Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. Bart Timmerman, 833-2600  
**Pastoral Associate:** Erik Gyr, erik@stamadison.org  
**Music Ministries:** Gregory Buchberger, greg@stamadison.org  
**Director of Evangelization and Parish Outreach:**  
 Jennifer Ludtke, jennifer@stamadison.org  
**Middle/High School:** Dominick Meyer, dominick@stamadison.org  
**Children & Families/Hispanic Ministry:**  
 Lorianne Aubut, lorianne@stamadison.org  
**Director of Discipleship:** Holly Irving, holly@stamadison.org  
**Business Manager:** Patrick O'Loughlin, patrick@stamadison.org  
**Facilities/Community Minister:**  
 Ismael Covarrubias, ismael@stamadison.org  
**Administrative:**  
**Main office:** Mary Bailey, mary@stamadison.org, 833-2600  
**RE/Stewardship:** Terri Kopplin, terri@stamadison.org, 833-2606  
**Communications/Hospitality:** Clarice Hinrichs, 833-2600  
 clarice@stamadison.org

## First Communion



Photo by: Mary Bailey

## Primera comunión

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**  
**April 29, 2018**

**Quinto Domingo de Pascua**  
**29 de Abril de 2018**



See Page 2

## From the Desk of Fr. Bart

### Fifth Sunday of Easter- Congratulations to our First Communicants!

As St. John Paul II once recollected: "I remember as though it were yesterday when, together with the other boys and girls of my own age, I received the Eucharist for the first time in the parish church of my town. This event is usually commemorated in a family photo, so that it will not be forgotten. Photos like these generally remain with a person all through his or her life. As time goes by, people take out these pictures and experience once more the emotions of those moments; they return to the purity and joy experienced in the meeting with Jesus, the One who out of love became the Redeemer of humankind."

On this First Communion Sunday, let us remember our First Holy Communion and be renewed in our love for Jesus Christ and be in awe of how we can receive such an amazing gift of Jesus' Body and Blood, a gift of Jesus the Bread of Life!

Congratulations to our 53 students who joined us for the first time at the table of the Lord and received their First Holy Communion. I thank the parents of these children who have taken seriously the promise they made at their child's Baptism to raise their children in the faith. I also thank our Religious Education Director, Lorianne Aubut for her leadership and guidance. Thank you to Terri Kopplin our Religious Education Secretary for her support and help with communication and organization. Thank you as well to our volunteer Catechists who have been the teachers of our second grade students: Bethney Pickhardt and Emily Simpson. We appreciate all that our community has done to pass on our faith in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist to our young people.

### Parish Photo Directory

Now is the time for us to get signed up to have our family photo taken for our Parish Photo Directory which will mark our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Parish Family. I cannot stress enough the importance of this directory for myself and our parish Staff as we serve the families of our parish. Also, this directory will help us to get to know one another by name as we grow in friendship with one another and Jesus Christ. Thank you for signing up, this is our one opportunity to be a part of the directory. The more families who participate, the better our directory will be! To schedule your photo appointment, please

visit [stamadison.org/parish-photo-directory/](http://stamadison.org/parish-photo-directory/),

call **866-756-0281**,

or sign up through the link on the homepage of our website.

### Sacrament of Confirmation Described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#1285 - #1287):

Baptism, the Eucharist, and the sacrament of Confirmation together constitute the "sacraments of Christian initiation," whose unity must be safeguarded. It must be explained to the faithful that the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace.<sup>89</sup> For "by the sacrament of Confirmation, [the baptized] are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed (*Lumen Gentium* 11)."

In the Old Testament the prophets announced that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the hoped-for Messiah for his saving mission



## Alpha Begins in June!

### What is Alpha?

Alpha is a series of gatherings that provide a comfortable, hospitable environment to explore the basics of the Christian faith and the big questions of life. Alpha has been going strong for over 30 years!



### What Does Alpha Look Like?

Good Food/Cocktail hour

Alpha Talk - Short video explaining the topic

Discussion - Small groups discuss the topic

### Who should come to Alpha?

Anyone who wants to get to know Jesus and their faith better, or who has questions about their faith. Has it been awhile since you had to explain the basics of what we believe about Jesus and our faith? Do you have a family member or friend who has stepped away? Alpha can help you explain things to them, or give them a place to ask their own questions. Even if you have been Catholic your whole life, it will deepen your appreciation for the way God loves us. Come, and bring a friend!

### Alpha in the Summer

#### Tuesday evening "Cocktail Hour"

7 - 8:30 PM June 5 - August 7

Snacks, beer/wine, welcome gathering, video, and discussion

#### Thursday Morning after 7:30 AM Mass

8:00 - 9:30 PM June 7 - August 9

Breakfast, welcome gathering, video, and discussion.

Sign up today! **Contact Jenny Ludtke at 833-2606 or Jennifer@stamadison.org**

### Not Sure and Want to See a Preview?

After all weekend Masses May 19 and 20 in the Chapel

After 8:30 AM Mass on Wednesday, May 23 in the Gathering Area

After 7:30 AM Mass on Thursday, May 24 in the Gathering Area

### Prayer for Life from USCCB

May Christ remain in us and we in him,  
so a culture that welcomes life takes root;  
We pray to the Lord:



Que Cristo permanezca en nosotros y nosotros en él,  
para que se afiance una cultura que acoja la vida;  
rogueemos al Señor:

## Reflection from Seminarian, Lawrence Oparaji



The relationship between the vine and the branch is a unique one—the branches mainly and wholly depend on the vine for food, the vine on its part stores and dispenses food and nutrients to the branches so that in due season they will come to bear fruit. So, if the branches do not get nutrients or stay connected to the vine their supply of nutrients is cut and they become weak and fall.

This is the summary of Christian spirituality: God is our Vine, we are the branches. God, the Vine, has sent His only Son into the world, to feed us, to nourish us and to strengthen us so as not to fall and even when we fall He does not leave us but feeds us more and stays closer to us to lift us up, if we allow Him. That is the joy of Christianity, God respects our free-will, God wants free and true love and not some love born out of fear for an authoritarian or dictator; he wants true and sincere love born out of a desire to follow Christ and a trust in His promises for us. God is our Vine and He has given us the Eucharist and the sacraments to dispense nutrients, graces, to us. On our own we can not do it, on our own we will be fallen branches, and we will not bear fruit. This understanding should give us a feeling of joy! God is in charge, God is the vine all we have to do is stay connected to Him—in prayer, in the sacraments—and He will feed us, He will nourish us and when we fall He will help us stand and give us the help we need to keep going.

Today we are called to reflect on our relationship with the Vine. How is my relationship with the Vine? Am I attached to the Vine and the nutrients He wishes to dispense to me in the sacraments? Is my relationship with the Vine bearing fruits in the way I live and in the way I treat others around me? As the great philosopher Plato says “an unexamined life is not worth living,” so today, Christ is calling us to reflect on those areas where we could be better connected to the Vine. May God help us as we journey these paths in faith.

### Prayer for Immigrants from USCCB

For all Catholics, that God will inspire them to take action in their local communities to support and protect immigrants and to advocate on their behalf, we pray to the Lord.

Por todos los católicos, para que Dios los inspire a tomar acción en sus comunidades locales para apoyar y proteger a los inmigrantes, y para advocar por ellos, roguemos al Señor.



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Fr. Bart's article is continued from the previous page

(Isaiah 11:2). The descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus at his baptism by John was the sign that this was he who was to come, the Messiah, the Son of God (Matthew 3:13-17, John 1:33-34). He was conceived of the Holy Spirit; his whole life and his whole mission are carried out in total communion with the Holy Spirit whom the Father gives him "without measure (John 3:34)."

This fullness of the Spirit was not to remain uniquely the Messiah's, but was to be communicated to *the whole messianic people* (Ezekiel 36:25-27). On several occasions Christ promised this outpouring of the Spirit (Luke 12:12, Acts 1:8), a promise which he fulfilled first on Easter Sunday and then more strikingly at Pentecost (John 20:22, Acts 2:1-14). Filled with the Holy Spirit the apostles began to proclaim "the mighty works of God," and Peter declared this outpouring of the Spirit to be the sign of the messianic age (Acts 2:11). Those who believed in the apostolic preaching and were baptized received the gift of the Holy Spirit in their turn (Acts 2:38)

Please pray for our 37 Confirmation Candidates being Confirmed next Saturday by Bishop Morlino at a special 7:00 PM Mass here at STA.

### May Crowning Next Sunday!

Next Sunday, May 6, as we begin the month of May, we will be celebrating May Crowning at the conclusion of our 10:00 AM Mass. May is the Month of Mary and May Crowning is a traditional Catholic devotion where love and honor for our Blessed Mother is expressed through Marian hymns, prayers, and flowers. Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI, in his weekly address to the faithful on April 30, 2006, explained Mary's month in this way:

“In the days that followed the Lord's Resurrection, the Apostles stayed together, comforted by Mary's presence, and after the Ascension they persevered with her in prayerful expectation of Pentecost. Our Lady was a mother and teacher to them, a role that she continues to play for Christians of all times. Every year, at Easter-tide, we relive this experience more intensely and perhaps, precisely for this reason, popular tradition has dedicated to Mary the month of May that normally falls between Easter and Pentecost. Consequently, this month which we begin tomorrow helps us to rediscover the maternal role that she plays in our lives so that we may always be docile disciples and courageous witnesses of the Risen Lord. Let us entrust to Mary the needs of the Church and of the whole world.”



### May Month of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now  
and at the hour of our  
death. Amen

May Crowning  
Sunday, May 6  
After 10:00 AM Mass

## Pictorial Directory

Sign-up to get your photo taken for our 60th Jubilee pictorial directory! You can receive assistance scheduling your photo session by



- calling (866) 756-0281,
- signing up using the link on the homepage of our website
- going to [stamadison.org/parish-photo-directory/](http://stamadison.org/parish-photo-directory/). Please help us reach 100% participation in the directory so we all may get to know our parish family!

**Sign up to help Host** - We are looking for volunteers to be at church to greet and check in parishioners arriving for their photo session. See the sign-up sheets in the Gathering Area for times we still need help.

### Photograph Dates

May 1 - 5, and 15 - 19

June 19 - 23

July 10 - 14 and 24 - 28

### Photograph Times

Tuesdays 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Wednesdays 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursdays 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Fridays 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Saturdays 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

## Weekly Stewardship of Treasure

### April 21/22

Envelope Offerings .....	\$11,125
Offertory.....	\$1,224
Children's Offerings .....	\$139
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$12,488</b>
Building Fund .....	\$495
Capital Improvement Fund .....	\$185
Direct Withdrawal .....	\$31,006
Spring Fling.....	\$8,555
Green Clock Films.....	\$1,785

**Thank you for your generosity and support of our mission at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish!**

### Counters Schedule

#### Monday, April 30

**Dick and Mary Ann Ihlenfeld**

#### Monday, May 7

**Bernice Bariola and Dan Gronemus**

## Discipleship with Holly Irving

### Ministry of the Week

The parishioners of St. Thomas Aquinas would like to thank the members of the Finance Committee. This is an appointed, collaborative body that serves as chief advisors to the pastor on parish financial matters and works on a consensus basis that involves all members. They are responsible for the parish budget, newly established parish endowment fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and the yearly review of the parish finances. Thank you for giving of your time and talent!



### 60th Anniversary of the Founding of our Parish!

Tickets go on sale for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary picnic on Sunday, May 13! **Tickets are \$6 a person/ \$30 a couple in advance. \$7 a person / \$35 a family at the door!** Mark your calendar for June 10! We will begin the celebration with Mass at 10:00 AM followed by lunch with refreshments, games, cake walk and much more!

## Spring Fling Trivia and Fiesta

One week left until our FUN(d) raiser! The winning Trivia teams are waiting for the challenge! The fun begins **after the 4:30 Mass on May 12**. There will be a delicious Mexican meal with a 50/50 raffle, trivia and more! Have you formed your Trivia Team? Many people have told me they are not good at Trivia! That's why you form a team! There is strength in numbers! Money raised will go to promote Evangelization!

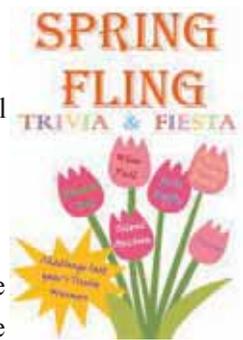
**Contact Holly at 833-2600 or**

**holly@stamadison.org for more**

**information!** Admission tickets in

Advance are \$15 a person / \$25 a couple

Or at the door: \$20 a person / \$30 a couple



## Thank you for STACKS

### from Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Dear Holly,

Thank you very much for STACKS' donation of prayer shawls for the Spring Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, March 9 - 11. We wanted you to know that the participants loved their prayer shawls and wore them the whole weekend.

Your STACKS ministry is so very much appreciated. Thank you for your generosity now and in the past.

Mary Mead, Retreat Facilitator, told me the retreat was phenomenal with much healing for participants. The prayer shawls are a big part of this healing. They all had grateful hearts to be remembered and gifted with the shawls.

Thanks very much to you and all in STACKS ministry and may God continue to Bless you all.

Sincerely,

Peg Gibson for Prayer Shawl Ministry,

4 Rachel's Vineyard Retreats



## We Pray for Our Loved Ones

SERVING WITH THE ARMED FORCES

- CW4 Steve Artz**, brother of Sue Ziegler and Judy Rossa
- SSG Michael Bosold**, nephew of Sharon Michel
- Owen Carle**, grandson of Glynn and Shirley Rossa
- SFC Enrique Andres Cervantes**, cousin of Maria McHugh
- A1C Margarita Clayton**, Sister of Tina Hutchison
- Anthony Church**, grandson of Clara Church
- Major Tim Doll**, nephew of Jerry and Mary Ann Doll
- A1C Colin Donovan**, cousin of Pat Korger
- A1C Charles (Gus) Dorais**, grandson of Mary Kay Dorais
- Lt. Colonel Michael Everton**, brother of Jennifer Doering
- Captain Alex Harms**, son of Bruce and Judy Harms
- Airman First Class Brianna Herreid**, granddaughter of Ken and Joyce Niesen
- SPC Shalice Hood**, friend of Alyssa Rivera
- A1C Nicholas Jones**, grandson of Mary and Gordon Samuelsen
- SSGT Mark Jurakovich**, brother of Gina Levesque
- LT Bradley Kirschbaum**, grandson of Tom and Sally Ellis
- SSGT Mike Levesque**, brother of Chad Levesque
- CPL Alyssa Rivera**, cousin of Fr. Bart Timmerman
- Major Stuart Mark Slattery**, grandson of Thomas & Loretta Slattery
- Steven Thomas**, brother of Linda Galang
- SGT Jack Vilim**, nephew of Mary Crave
- A1C Blake E. Westbrook**, grandson of Diane Genske
- SGT Ian Bush**, nephew of Patrick and Kathy Taddy

## This Week at St. Thomas Aquinas

### Tuesday, May 1

- Directory Photo Sessions, Upper Conference Room ..... 2:00 - 9:00 PM
- Pastoral Council Meeting, Lower Conference Room.....6:00 PM
- Young Adult Meeting, Library .....6:00 PM

### Wednesday, May 2

- Toddler Time, Nursery and Upper Conference Room .....9:00 AM
- Directory Photo Sessions, Upper Conference Room . 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Choristers, Music Room .....5:00 PM

### Thursday, May 3

- Directory Photo Sessions, Upper Conference Room ..... 2:00 - 9:00 PM
- Spanish Rosary .....6:00 PM
- Choir Rehearsal, Social Hall .....6:30 PM

### Friday, May 4

- Wild Goose, Library .....9:00 AM
- Directory Photo Sessions, Upper Conference Room ..... 12:00 - 7:00 PM

### Saturday, May 5

- Directory Photo Sessions, Upper Conference Room ... 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Confessions .....3:15 PM

### Sunday, May 6

- Confessions .....9:00 AM
- May Crowning after the 10:00 AM MASS in the courtyard
- SVdP Meeting, Library .....9:00 AM

### Care Facility Liturgies This Week

- Oakwood:** Friday, May 4, Rosary
- Brookdale:** Friday, May 4, Word and Communion
- Sebring:** No liturgies this week

## Bulletin Sponsor of the Week

Thank you to our bulletin sponsors.  
Their ads make our bulletin possible.

Please support our advertisers,  
and let them know you saw their ad in the STA bulletin.

## Resources for Human Needs

- [www.momhelps.org/](http://www.momhelps.org/): Middleton Outreach Ministry (food, housing, utilities, clothing)
- [www.womenscarecenter.org/Madison.html](http://www.womenscarecenter.org/Madison.html): Women's Care Center (counseling, ultrasounds)
- [www.catholiccharitiesofmadison.org/](http://www.catholiccharitiesofmadison.org/): Catholic Charities (adoption, aging services, developmental disabilities, counseling, substance abuse treatment, etc.)
- [www.cmcmadison.org/](http://www.cmcmadison.org/): Catholic Multicultural Center (food, health services, education, job development, immigration legal help)
- [abuseintervention.org/](http://abuseintervention.org/): Domestic Abuse Intervention Service (crisis response, emergency shelter, support groups)
- [www.silentnomoreawareness.org](http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org): Abortion recovery help
- [hopeafterabortion.com](http://hopeafterabortion.com): Project Rachel (Abortion recovery help)
- Madison Al-Anon Hotline:** support for families and friends troubled by someone else's drinking or drug use—608-255-5181
- [www.elizabethhousedane.org](http://www.elizabethhousedane.org): Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County (free residential maternity and parenting program)

## Evangelization in Everyday Life by a Parishioner

I will tell you something about discipleship that happened this weekend while I was caring for a Catholic friend's daughter while she was out of town. The daughter directly violated what her Mother had told her to do. So, I said we needed to go to confession and she had to talk to Father about what she did. I said I would also go to confession.

This surprised the daughter to learn that I also sin every day thinking bad things about people. I guess she thought when you grow up, that doesn't happen. I also explained that it takes a lot of courage to admit you did something wrong and confess it. So Saturday, we went to confession. When she came out, I asked her if she felt better and she did.

The daughter asked me if her friends who did not believe in God could go to heaven? I said I thought they could. I said they didn't get the help we got from praying. I said she could tell her friends this when they were having a tough time. When she felt better after confessing her sin, I pointed out that her friends did not get this. I pointed out that some people go through life feeling bad about something they did, but we did not have to do that.

*I will make her a disciple.*

## Young Adult Connections April events

Open to marrieds and singles in their 20s and 30s, the Young Adult group at St. Thomas Aquinas gathers for conversation and fellowship twice a month (with a few extra fun events). The best way to stay informed is to be on the YA email list. To be added to the list, please **contact Jennifer Ludtke at [jennifer@stamadison.org](mailto:jennifer@stamadison.org) or 833-2606**. You can also stay informed about parish, diocesan and other YA events at **[facebook.com/STAMadisonYA](https://www.facebook.com/STAMadisonYA)**



There are some wonderful opportunities for STA Young Adults coming up in the next few weeks. We hope to see you there!

- The YA monthly dinner out will be **Monday, April 30** at the Dumpling Haus. Contact Tyler to RSVP **[t.holle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:t.holle@sbcglobal.net)**
- Come to the regular first and third Monday night gathering. Join us on **Monday, May 7, 7-9 PM** in the Gathering Area. Each evening stands on its own, so come anytime!

## Holy Family Homeschoolers Present Middle School Play

Holy Family Homeschoolers will present *The Enchanted Bookshop*, by Todd Wallinger, Friday, May 11, 6:30 PM at Belleville High School Auditorium. Tickets sold at the door - \$5 each, \$20 per family.

## Mass Intentions for This Week

### Saturday, April 28

4:30 PM Theis and Pertzborn Families ☩

### Sunday, April 29: 5th Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM Regina and William Frederick ☩

10:00 AM Philip Ayoub ☩

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners ☩

### Monday, April 30: St. Pius V, Pope

8:30 AM Dolores Stiennon ☩

### Tuesday, May 1: St. Joseph the Worker

5:30 PM Ann Belekevich ☩

### Wednesday, May 2: St. Athanasius, Bishop/Doctor of Church

8:30 AM Jay Standiford ☩

### Thursday, May 3: Sts. Philip and James, Apostles; National Day of Prayer

7:30 AM Fred Fuller ☩

### Friday, May 4

8:30 AM Edward and Shirley King ☩

### Saturday, May 5

4:30 PM Elizabeth Madigan ☩

### Sunday, May 6: 6th Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM Joseph Lawton ☩

10:00 AM Connor Neely ☩

6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners ☩

## Readings for the Week of April 29

**Sunday:** Acts 9:26-31/Ps 22:26-27, 28, 30, 31-32 [26a]/1 Jn 3:18-24/  
Jn 15:1-8

**Monday:** Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16 [1ab]/Jn 14:21-26

**Tuesday:** Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21 [cf. 12]/Jn 14:27-31a  
St. Joseph the Worker: Gn 1:26--2:3 or Col 3:14-15, 17, 23-24/  
Ps 90:2, 3-4, 12-13, 14 and 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 13:54-58

**Wednesday:** Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [cf. 1]/Jn 15:1-8

**Thursday:** 1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5 [5]/Jn 14:6-14

**Friday:** Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12 [10a]/Jn 15:12-17

**Saturday:** Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

**Next Sunday:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 [cf. 2b]/  
1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17

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 Follow St. Thomas Aquinas on Facebook

 Instagram

## Every Day is Earth Day!

May the beauty of this Easter Season and the reminder to care for God's Creation on Earth Day inspire us to make every day Earth Day. We are all responsible for being good stewards of the earth. Let us "live simply so others may simply live."

Every step you take does make a difference.

Set aside some time each day to thank God for the beauty of his Creation

Take a daily walk and reflect on God's gift of the natural world

Learn more:

Read *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical

Join Catholic Climate Covenant, <http://www.catholicclimatecovenant.org/>

Join Global Catholic Climate Movement,  
<https://catholicclimatemovement.global/>

Lower your consumption of fossil fuel energy:

Get a home energy audit

Change to LED light bulbs

Use a programmable thermostat

Choose to walk, take the bus, or ride your bike rather than using your car

Travel less by plane

Use a clothesline to dry your clothes

Use less water:

Take one less shower a week

Water only food-producing plants, not lawns

Get a rain barrel

Advocate for public policies that lower carbon emissions:

Write your Members of Congress and Letters to the Editor

Consider serving on the STA Care of Creation Team

Share your thoughts and concerns with friends and family

Join the St. Thomas Aquinas Care of Creation team.

Contact Josh Brzeszkiewicz at

[joshbrez@gmail.com](mailto:joshbrez@gmail.com) or

608-293-3996



Photo by: Clarice Hinrichs

## **“Pick a Pack” for SVdP Pantry Garden May 4, 5 and 6 at America’s Best Flowers in Cottage Grove**

Eager to get your garden going? So are volunteer gardeners at St. Vincent de Paul’s Lacy Pantry Garden, the garden that supplies up to 25,000 pounds of fresh, local vegetables to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry each year to feed neighbors in need. Shoppers can simply add as many donation slips as they like, each worth a \$1.99 veggie 4-pack, to their order when they check out and the veggies will join others at the Lacy Garden to grow into healthy food given out at the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

### **Plant-a-Pack**

Throughout this growing season, St. Vincent de Paul volunteers will work the 1.25-acre Lacy Pantry Garden in Fitchburg. Food reaped from this Fitchburg parcel will go to families relying on the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry. Individuals as well as family, church, company, civic or youth groups interested in working at the garden this season should contact Thomas Parslow at [pantrygarden@svdpmadison.org](mailto:pantrygarden@svdpmadison.org). Visit [www.gardensvdpmadison.org](http://www.gardensvdpmadison.org) for more information.

### **Prayer**

God of all creation,

we thank you for the abundant gifts

you have given us—

the gift of your unconditional love,

the gift of each other and

the gift of all created things.

We praise you for your generosity

and your loving care for us.

We hear your call to us to live in

right relationship with each other

and with creation.

Help us to always be mindful

of how our actions affect your gifts—

for good or for bad.

We ask this in the name of your Son,

our Redeemer,

and in your Spirit. Amen.

--Catholic Climate Covenant

Adapted from *Friending Planet Earth*



Photo by: Clarice Hinrichs

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS MOTHER'S DAY CRIB FILL

MAY 5/6 – MAY 12/13  
GATHERING AREA

Celebrate all mothers with this wonderful opportunity to show our support and love.



**Celebrate Mother's Day  
by bringing a donation  
for the annual**

**St. Thomas Aquinas  
Baby Shower Crib Fill**

Help to fill the baby cribs in the gathering space with new, unwrapped baby shower gifts.

These gifts will be shared with our parish St. Vincent de Paul conference, Pregnancy Helpline, Elizabeth House, and the Women's Care Center of Madison. These organizations all work to help and support pregnant women and new mothers.

Financial donations are welcome, and will be divided between the organizations.

**Checks should be made out to  
St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.**

This effort is cosponsored by our parish St. Vincent de Paul conference, Justice and Peace/Respect Life Committee, and the St. Ambrose Guardians for Life.



## CRIB FILL SHOPPERS GUIDE

- DISPOSABLE DIAPERS (NEWBORN - SIZE 5)
- BABY WIPES & DIAPER RASH CREAM
- NURSING PILLOWS
- ONE PIECE SLEEP AND PLAY OUTFITS
- BODYSUITS AND NEUTRAL COLORED SOCKS UP TO 18 MOS
- CLOTHING UP TO 18 MOS.
- PCB-FREE BABY BOTTLES
- BABY TOILETRIES (SOAP, SHAMPOO, LOTIONS, ETC.)
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Please remember: only new, unwrapped gifts can be accepted

**Financial donations are also  
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**Checks should be made out to  
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*Sample sizes of shampoo, soap, lotion,  
& perfume are great  
as small gifts for new moms.*

No food items, please.

## Who are our recipients?

- **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is one of the oldest charitable organizations in the world, founded in 1833 in France. This international organization is made up of lay Catholic men and women who are committed to live and grow in their Christian faith through prayer and personal involvement in charitable works. Their mission is to help the needy in countless ways, primarily through one-on-one contact of volunteers with children, families and the homeless. They primarily accomplish this mission through parish-based groups called Conferences. Our members, called Vincentians, continually strive to promote the dignity of the people they serve while helping alleviate their suffering and distress and working to help correct conditions that cause these problems. Here in Madison, WI our District Council operates Port St. Vincent de Paul, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton House, a Food Pantry, a Charitable Pharmacy and six Thrift Stores.  
<http://www.svdpmadison.org/index.html>
- **Pregnancy Helpline of Madison** is a non-profit organization that has been supporting Madison-area families for over 30 years. Their mission is to provide life-affirming, compassionate care; giving accurate information, material support, and community referrals to women and their families before, during, and after pregnancy. They provide a 24-hour Helpline, a Sharing Center for material goods, a diaper bank, a Baby Care Package program, and a Safe Sleep program. All programs are free of charge to women, men, and families. <http://www.pregnancyhelpline.net/>
- **Elizabeth House** is a nine month Christian residential program for pregnant women in crisis pregnancies. Since December, 2005 they have been able to provide help to over 110 mothers and their babies. They have expanded programming to include a Parenting and Education Specialist to focus on teaching the women to be the best and first teachers in their children's lives. Their Nurturing a New Life program focuses on five program objectives: increase life management skills; identify and use support networks & community services; increase spiritual growth and emotional well-being; increase and maintain healthy relationship skills, and increase knowledge of effective parenting.  
<http://www.carenetdane.org/friends/elizabethhouse.html>
- **Women's Care Center**, located across the street from Planned Parenthood on the east side of Madison, provides free, confidential counseling, and support and education to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Free services include pregnancy testing, pregnancy verification (counselors provide "proof of pregnancy," needed to receive medical care and other social services), ultrasounds, and other resources to obtain prenatal care and help with a wide range of services, resources and ongoing support. <http://www.womenscarecenter.org/>

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