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,
Deacon: Rev. Mr. Lawrence Oparaji, 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,
RE/Stewardship: Terri Kopplin, terri@stamadison.org,
Communications/Hospitality:
Clarice Hinrichs, clarice@stamadison.org
From the Desk of Fr. Bart

Fourth Sunday of Advent:
This Advent, as a parish family, we are getting ready for company! Each week, we are exploring the theme of - Welcome and Hospitality. By being a welcoming and hospitable parish we can evangelize! We can share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others! We want to be very intentional about being more welcoming and more hospitable.

The First Sunday of Advent, we reflected on the theme: Being Prepared - Stand Upright.
From the direction of Jesus in Luke 21:28, even in the midst of so many trials and fearful events in our world, we are asked by Jesus to stand up and be ready to share the Good News of Salvation with others.

Here at St. Thomas Aquinas, we want to welcome and reach out to those who will be joining us for Christmas Mass. We hope to be able to engage them, even if it is for just a moment, into the life of our parish family. This is everyone’s responsibility as disciples of Jesus Christ.

The Second Sunday of Advent, we reflect on the theme: Straighten the Way.
We want to be like John the Baptist and help to make straight the way of the Lord. We want to especially reach out to others and accompany them and help them to clear a path for Christ to be born in their hearts this year. This calls us to be a parish that is more than welcoming, but also inviting. When was the last time you invited someone to attend Mass with us at STA? There is a difference between a private faith and a personal faith. Our faith is personal, but it cannot be kept private if we are living out our Baptismal calling by sharing our love for Jesus with others. Inviting others involves taking risks. Accompanying others is hard work. But this is how we can help to make straight the way for the Lord for others.

The Third Sunday of Advent we reflect on the theme: Rejoice and Walk Together.
John the Baptist, the great Advent Saint, calls us to a life of justice and mercy to prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ. In this life of justice and mercy, we are called to walk with others, sharing with them from what we have, caring for their needs, and being satisfied with the gifts God has bestowed on us. When we walk with others, we can lead them to Jesus, we can be like John the Baptist and point them towards Christ, as he comes into our world to save us. Everyone can walk with others and serve others. Our goal is to walk with others so that we can bring them to Jesus. Then Jesus can convert them, Jesus can save them.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent theme is: Embrace and Offer Hospitality.
On this final Sunday, just one day before we joyfully begin celebrating our Christmas Masses, we reflect on the Visitation of Mary to her relative Elizabeth. In this time of year, we do a lot of visiting. Visiting and offering hospitality to others brings us consolation amidst the many trials and challenges of life. It is a time to make memories, and grow in love for each other. Mary’s visit stirred up a feeling of joy within Elizabeth, as the infant in her womb leapt for joy when Mary brought Jesus Christ to her home. Let us commit ourselves to bringing Jesus Christ to others as we spend time

Fr. Bart’s article is continued on the next page
**Fleece Tie Blankets: An Activity for All Ages!**

May you always be blessed with peace in your heart, warmth in your soul, contentment in your life, joy in your home.

All ages are invited to join us on **Thursday, January 10**, between 6:30-8:00 pm in the Social Hall, to make fleece tie blankets for Recycle the Warmth. This activity, sponsored by our parish SVdP Conference, is a wonderful opportunity for all ages to share the warmth of God’s love by creating a cozy blanket!

**Willing to bring fleece** or assist with the project? Contact Kathy Meehan at meehanmnk@gmail.com for more information.

About Recycle the Warmth: St. Vincent de Paul annually provides hundreds of needy people in Madison and its surrounding communities with good-quality recycled and new bedding. All the bedding from this drive will then be given away during the next twelve months to needy individuals and families who come to our Center for Vincentian Charity (2033 Fish Hatchery Road in Madison) seeking assistance.

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**52nd World Day of Peace**

As we celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace we look toward Pope Francis’ message for the 52nd World Day of Peace which is observed on January 1. The Pope’s theme for 2019 is “Good politics at the Service of Peace.” The Pope urges us to be faithful citizens when he says: “Political responsibility belongs to every citizen... He also reminds us that peace will not be achieved without mutual trust, “encouraging dialogue between all actors of society, between generations, and between cultures”.

Let us pray for peace every day, but particularly on January 1. The following version of the World Peace Prayer hymn reminds us that “politics” isn’t just about those in office. Good politics requires all citizens to act justly for the good of all: “Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth. Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust. Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Let us dream together, pray together, work together, to build one world of peace and justice for all.”

Anonymous

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**Weekly Stewardship of Treasure**

**November 21, Ecumenical Service**
*Offertory - For Lussier Food Pantry* .................................................. $439

**December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe**
*Offertory* ................................................................. $849

**December 15/16**
*Offertory* ................................................................. $23,883

*Building Fund / Capital Improvement* ................................. $1,736

Thank you for your generosity and support of STA!

**Counters Schedule**

- **Monday, December 24**
  - Don Mahoney and Sara Marx

- **Monday, December 31**
  - Phyllis Reindl and Dick Ihlenfeld

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**End of Calendar Year Giving**

The last regular Sunday offertory collection of the year will be the weekend following Christmas, the Feast of the Holy Family, December 29 and 30. I am confident that as a parish family, we will all do our best to help our parish meet our financial commitments. If you are able, this is the time to complete your pledge you made last year. To take advantage of a tax deduction for all 2018 contributions, the following guidelines are offered:

- All hand-delivered 2018 contributions must be received in the parish office no later than noon on Sunday, December 30, 2018.
- All mailed 2018 contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2018.

If you have any questions about how you can make your gift to the parish, or any question regarding your pledge balance, please call Patrick O’Loughlin at our parish office between 9:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Thank you so much for all of your great generosity towards our STA Parish!

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**Reflection from Seminarian, Michael Wanta**

Today we are presented with a beautiful fore-taste of the Christmas Mystery. And it is Mary herself who announces this joyful news just as she did to Elizabeth in the Gospel. She comes to tell us that God dwells among us in the little, yet unborn, Christ Child. But Mary is able to share this joy only because she first received it.

She was waiting in faith for a savior. Maybe she suspected that God would ask her to play a role in His coming, or maybe she was caught off guard. But, in either case, when God asked, Mary responded with a yes: “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord, be done unto me according to your word.” She received Jesus into her womb and became His mother by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit because she first received Jesus in her heart. She believed in Him and in the words of the angel.

She then turns to share this joy by an interior obedience. She doesn’t go to Elizabeth to check if Elizabeth is also pregnant. She comes to tell us that God dwells among us in the little, yet unborn, Christ Child. But Mary is able to share this joy only because she first received it.

Moses encountered God’s presence in the burning bush. Mary is the very bush overshadowed by God’s presence, and bearing Jesus in her womb, but yet remaining a Virgin. Moses removed his sandals since the ground was Holy. Mary now carries God, making the ground holy where she walks. Moses was sent to deliver Israel from slavery in Egypt. Mary now carries the Savior from sin. Moses was afraid to speak to Pharaoh. Mary proclaimed the news with joy.

In these few shorts days before Christmas, look to Mary. Ask her to share her faith with you so that you can be attentive to God who came long ago to save you, and comes now to renew his strength and power within you. Wait with Mary, believe what was spoken, and then go and share that joy with others.
This Week at St. Thomas Aquinas

Monday, December 24
Children's Christmas Pageant Mass ........................................ 4:00 PM
Vigil Christmas Mass (Bilingual) ........................................... 6:30 PM
Men’s Integrity Group, Library ........................................... 7:00 PM
Mass during the Night ....................................................... 9:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25
Mass ......................................................................................... 8:00 and 10:00 AM
Office Closed and No Evening Mass

Wednesday, December 26
Community Meal Program at Luke House, Food here by 10:00 AM

Thursday, December 27
Spanish Rosary ........................................................................ 6:00 PM

Saturday, December 29
Confessions .............................................................................. 3:15 PM

Sunday, December 30
Confessions .............................................................................. 9:00 AM

Readings for the Week of December 23

Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-18 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/
Lk 1:39-45
Monday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/
Lk 1:67-79
Tuesday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25
Midnight: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/
Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/
Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Wednesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/
Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8b, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Friday: 1 Jn 1:5-22/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7cd-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/
1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, December 22
4:30 PM Stella and Michael Keyes

Sunday, December 23: 4th Sunday of Advent
8:00 AM Mary Kay Dorais
10:00 AM Marie Medina
6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

Monday, December 24: Christmas Eve
4:00 PM Joseph and Lucile Devine
6:30 PM Bishop Robert C. Morlino
9:00 PM Jerry Conwell

Tuesday, December 25: The Nativity of the Lord
8:00 AM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners
10:00 AM Franco and Karenrose Llamas (23rd Wedding Anniversary)

Wednesday, December 26: St. Stephen, the First Martyr
8:30 AM Don Reindle

Thursday, December 27: St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
7:30 AM Shirley Laska

Friday, December 28: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs
8:30 AM Marian Engerman

Saturday, December 29
4:30 PM William and Lexy Rotzoll

Sunday, December 30: The Holy Family
8:00 AM Peter and Connie Sahagian
10:00 AM Edward and Shirley King
6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

Resources for Human Needs

www.momhelps.org/: Middleton Outreach Ministry (food, housing, utilities, clothing)
www.womenscarecenter.org/Madison.html: Women's Care Center (counseling, ultrasounds)
www.catholiccharitiesofmadison.org/: Catholic Charities (adoptions, aging services, developmental disabilities, counseling, substance abuse treatment, etc.)
www.cmcmadison.org/: Catholic Multicultural Center (food, health services, education, job development, immigration legal help)
www.carenetpregnancycenter.org/: Care Net Pregnancy Center of Dane County (free residential maternity and parenting program)
National Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
National Hotline Number for Sex Trafficking phone 888-373-7888
text “help” to 233733