



ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PARISH

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LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS. MAKE DISCIPLES!

We are a Catholic parish where people experience Jesus Christ in a way that changes how they live.

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, 4:15–5:20 PM

Friday, 9:00–10:00 AM

Parish Staff, 608-833-2600

Pastor: Fr. Bart Timmerman,

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

Director of Discipleship: Holly Irving, holly@stamadison.org

Business Manager: Patrick O'Loughlin, patrick@stamadison.org

Facilities/Community Minister:

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Administrative Assistant: Mary Bailey, mary@stamadison.org

Communications: Clarice Hinrichs, clarice@stamadison.org

Religious Education/Stewardship Office

Administrative Assistant: Terri Kopplin,

terri@stamadison.org, 608-833-2606

Children and Families/Hispanic Ministry: Lorianne Aubut,

lorianne@stamadison.org, 608-833-2600

Middle/High School: Dominick Meyer,

dominick@stamadison.org, 608-821-4867

“Those whom the Lord
has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;”

Isaiah 35:10



“Volverán a casa los
rescatados por el Señor,
vendrán a Sión con cantos de
júbilo, coronados de
perpetua alegría;”

Isaías 35:10

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019

Tercer Domingo de Adviento
15 de Diciembre de 2019



Fr. Bart Timmerman, Pastor

Third Sunday of Advent - Becoming an Inviting Parish

This third Sunday of Advent is called, "Gaudete Sunday," the day when we light the pink or rose-colored candle on the Advent Wreath. Rose-colored vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near. "Gaudete"



means "rejoice." This day reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, amid this season of penance, as a kind of break when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Our Lord Jesus. We are filled with the joy of our life with Jesus Christ and we are always filled with joy over the mystery of the incarnation - the birth of Jesus. How can we invite others into the experience of joy that we have come to know as disciples of Jesus?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

I invite you to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this Advent Season. Advent prepares us for the 3 Comings of Christ:

1. Christ coming in History at His birth in Bethlehem;
2. Christ coming in Mystery in each moment of our lives;
3. Christ coming in Majesty at the end of time.

Going to Confession is the best way to prepare for Christ's 3 comings:

1. The best way to celebrate Christ coming in history on the first Christmas, is to receive Communion in the state of grace when we attend Christmas Mass.
2. The best way to prepare for Christ coming in mystery into our lives is by turning away from sin and being open to receive Jesus when he comes into our lives each day.
3. The best way to prepare for Christ coming in majesty at the end of time, is to be free from sin and ready for heaven.

Today on Sunday, we have an added opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11:15 AM. We also have our regular times each week. You are invited and welcome to this healing Sacrament as we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ!

Thank You!

OLG Mass and Fiesta

Thank you to everyone who made our Mass and Fiesta in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe a reality last Thursday. Thank you to all who attended the Mass and Fiesta. It was a beautiful celebration of our love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary who appeared to St. Juan Diego to remind all of us that we are beloved children of God. Her appearance as a mestizo woman helped to evangelize, and bring countless indigenous people to belief in Jesus through the Catholic faith. She continues to care for us today and lead us closer to her Son, Jesus.

Christmas Food Baskets

Thank you to all who brought in food and supplies for our Christmas Food Baskets. Thank you to all who helped package and deliver the baskets. It was another successful event that helps our neighbors in need who struggle with hunger.

Gifts From the Heart

Thank you to all who brought in gifts for families in need to help them make Christmas a special time for their children and families.

Thanksgiving Collections

Thank you for making Thanksgiving a special time of year for our parish community. Your attendance and generosity is very much appreciated at our Thanksgiving Liturgies. We collected \$383 for the Lussier Food Pantry at our Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer Service. We also collected \$1,577 in the offertory for our STA St. Vincent de Paul Conference at our Thanksgiving Day Mass.

Prayer for Life

For all who have lost a loved one: As we prepare for the coming of Christ, may they find peace in the hope of eternal life; We pray to the Lord:



Prayer for Peace

As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace, we remember all who have lost their lives to war and pray for peaceful resolutions to conflict; We pray to the Lord:

Christmas Cookie Sale

Thank you to all who helped to make the Bake Sale a success. The proceeds benefit our Christmas Food Baskets.

Gifts from the Heart

The STA St. Vincent de Paul Conference would like to express our gratitude for all who provided gifts as part of the Gifts from the Heart program. Our neighbors in need deeply appreciate your generosity.



Ministers of Hospitality and Greeters

One of the most basic acts a parish can do welcome visitors and members warmly. We have a great group of ministers of hospitality and several greeters, but we still need more greeters at all Masses and Ministers of Hospitality at the 4:30 PM and 10:00 AM Masses each weekend. If you love meeting people and could help by being a Minister of Hospitality or a Greeter, please contact Holly Irving.

Who Will You Invite to Christmas Mass?

Glowing decorations, beautiful music, familiar Christmas carols, a warm community, and best of all, God's gift of salvation through His Son Jesus Christ! There is so much about Christmas at St. Thomas Aquinas to delight us and enrich our lives and the lives of those around us.

When he visited a few weeks ago, Bishop Hying asked us to think of who we can invite to Mass, and Christmas Mass is the perfect place to start. Who do you want to share the peace of Jesus with? Your brother? Your children? The nurse at your doctor's office who wants to go to church on Christmas but doesn't know where? Let us pray that, as growing disciples, we can recognize the promptings of the Holy Spirit and share with others the wonderful gift of life in Christ, starting with Christmas at St. Thomas Aquinas!

Let us pray: Loving God, may we show in our lives the joy we have come to know as a disciple of Jesus. Reconciled to you, and filled with your peace, may we make straight the path for others to come to know and love you. Amen.

Christmas Mass Schedule

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec. 24

Children's Mass with Christmas pageant

4:00 PM, no incense

Vigil Mass

6:30 PM, bilingual/bilingüe, *no incense*

Mass during the Night

9:00 PM, Prelude and carols at 8:15 PM

Christmas Day, Wednesday, Dec. 25

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Holy Family, Dec. 28 and 29

Regular weekend Mass schedule

Mary Mother of God, Jan. 1

(Holy Day of Obligation)

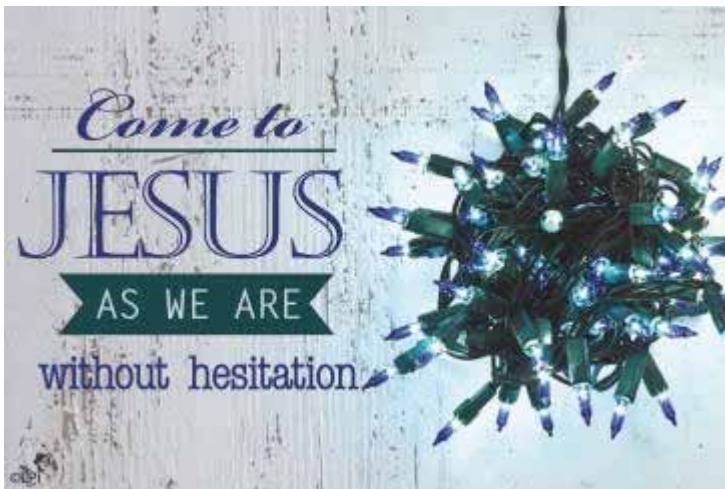
Tuesday, December 31, 5:30 PM

Wednesday, January 1, 9:00 AM

Epiphany of the Lord, Jan. 4 and 5

Regular weekend Mass schedule

Lessons and Carols: Sunday, Jan. 5, 1:00 PM



Office and Building Holiday Schedule

Thursday, December 19

Parish Office to close at noon for staff Christmas party

Tuesday, December 24

Parish Office to close at 1:00 PM; building will remain open.

Wednesday, December 25

Parish Office closed all day

Building will close at 11:00 AM after Mass

Thursday and Friday, December 26 and 27

Parish Office and Building will be open regular hours

Monday, December 30

Parish Office and Building will be open regular hours

Tuesday, December 31

Parish Office to close at 12:00 PM; building will remain open

All year end donation need to be received or postmarked by

12/31/19 to be posted on your 2019 giving per IRS rules.

If we are not in the office please drop your gift off in the mail slot in the Gathering Area.

Fleece Tie Blankets: Save the date for later, but buy fleece now!

Thursday, January 9, 2020 from 6:30-8 pm

There's some great deals right now to purchase 2 yard lengths of fleece (choose 2 kinds that go together) or fleece blanket making kits! Making fleece tie blankets is an annual activity, sponsored by our parish St. Vincent de Paul Conference. It's a wonderful opportunity for all ages to share the warmth of God's love by creating a cozy blanket for the "Recycle the Warmth" collection in January. **Able to donate fleece?** Contact Kathy Taddy at pktaddy@tds.net or Jenny Ludtke. We've got a spot to store it here at the parish until the event on January 9.

Becoming Catholic as an Adult

If you are not Catholic, and are curious about what it would take to possibly become one, we would love the opportunity to talk with you.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process that gives you an opportunity to learn about the Catholic faith and Sacred Scripture, grow closer to God through prayer, and help you come to a decision about receiving the sacraments and becoming a member of the Catholic Church. This year, RCIA is taking place on Wednesday evenings. Make a short one-on-one appointment to learn more by contacting Jenny Ludtke.

Are you Catholic already, but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Listen to the Spirit calling! There is a preparation process for adults who have been practicing their Catholic faith, and are now looking to celebrate Confirmation. The first step is to reach out to Jenny Ludtke!



Online Advent Resources

usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgical-year/advent/index.cfm

- A virtual calendar with daily activity and prayer suggestions to prepare you spiritually for the birth of Jesus Christ.

dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever. Daily reflections from Matthew Kelly and other leading Catholic speakers. You'll receive daily inspirational emails with short videos, encouragement, and coaching for Advent.

ewtn.com/advent/calendar.asp Daily readings, reflections and an Advent action. There are also links and videos to history lessons and messages of hope.

adventreflections.com/ daily email from Bishop Robert Barron that are deep yet thoughtful and give you an "action item" each day.

osv.com/portals/4/pdf/30Things_AdventPoster.pdf a printable calendar featuring 30 ways to a stress-free Advent

loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/advent/activities/advent-activities-for-all. Advent activities for children, with ideas for family time.

onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/ Daily reflections. Each page includes a reference to each reading, as well as a link to the text of the readings.

ignatianspirituality.com/advent Ignatian contemplation and reflective prayer encourage us in the season of Advent.



An Epiphany Celebration Of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 5, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Our parish choirs will share songs of Christ's coming. We will sing together the Carols of Christmas. We will hear again the Proclamation of Christ's Birth, and the stories of the Incarnation, Christmas, and Epiphany.

We will pray for all people throughout the world.

A simple reception will follow our prayer.

This event is open to the public. All are Welcome!

Reception to Follow. All Are Welcome!

Medical Assistance during Mass

We never know when a medical emergency might arise during Mass, and it really helps if trained medical personnel can help us while we wait for the EMTs. If you are a doctor, nurse, first responder, or EMT, please check in with Holly Irving when you get to Mass, so she knows to look for you if we need assistance.

Prayer Chain

Prayer is powerful. There are many parishioners who pray daily for the needs of others. If you, a loved one, or a friend are in need of prayers please contact prayer@stamadison.org.

If you would like to pray for the people in need, please contact prayer@stamadison.org.

The prayer chain is very long by the end of December, so in January everyone is removed from the prayer chain. If you know someone who needs to remain on the prayer chain, please contact prayer@stamadison.org.

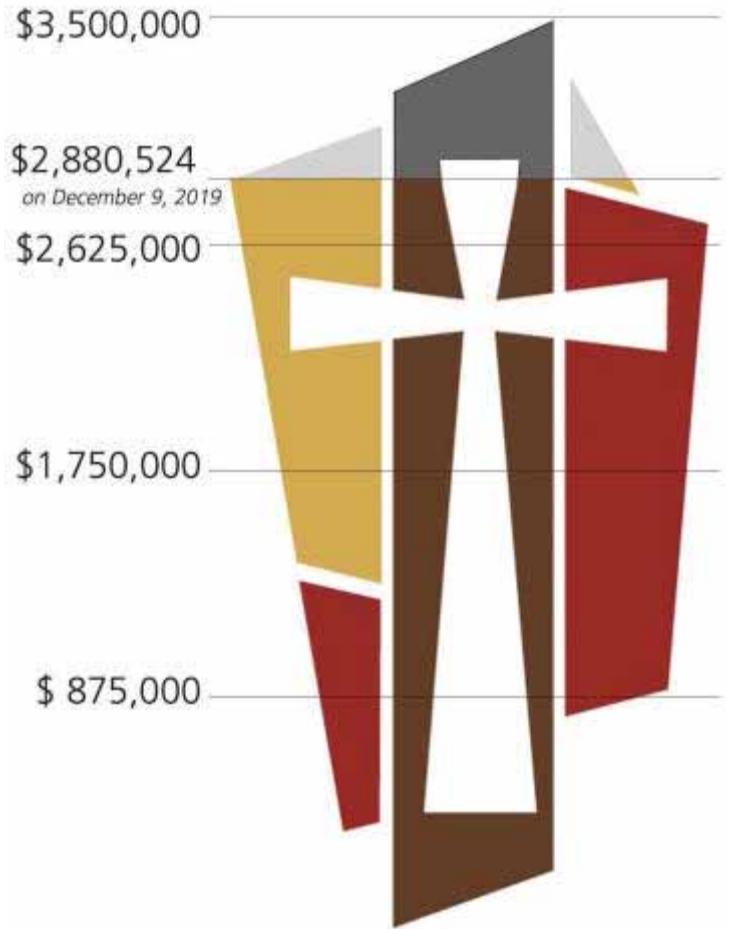
Praise and Worship Music with Gayle

Gayle is again offering Praise and Worship on Monday nights in the Church from 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Future dates are January 13, February 10, and March 9. We look forward to seeing you there.

MAKE DISCIPLES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your generous support of our Make Disciples Capital Campaign. As of November 19, a total of 371 households have pledged \$2,880,524. If you did not get a chance to fill out a pledge card, you can find them in the Gathering Area by the mail slot.

MAKE DISCIPLES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN Campaign Progress



Charitable Gift Annuities

Have you considered establishing a charitable gift annuity as a way to make a gift to your parish? By establishing a Charitable Gift Annuity, you can help your parish while still receiving a benefit for yourself and/or your spouse for the remainder of your lives. Individuals are in search of ways to maintain cash flow, seek the security of guaranteed payments, save on taxes, and most importantly, help the organization that have meant so much to them throughout the course of their lives. With the establishment of a charitable gift annuity, you can choose to receive your payments quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. Please contact your financial advisor!

This Week at St. Thomas Aquinas

Monday, December 16

Prayer Team Meeting, Chapel..... 6:15 PM
 Bereavement Series, Upper Conference Room..... 6:30 PM

Tuesday, December 17

Marian Prayer Cenacle Group, Library 6:00 PM
 Men's Evening of Recollection, Chapel 6:00 PM
 Evangelization Commission, Lower Conference Room 6:00 PM
 SVdP Conference Meeting, Upper Conference Room..... 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 18

Toddler Time, Upper Conference Room and Nursery 9:00 AM
 Wednesday Morning Journey with the Saints, Bride's Room 9:00 AM

Thursday, December 19

Parish Office Closes at Noon, Building will be Closed
 The Wild Goose 6:30 PM
 Parish Choir Rehearsal, Music Room 6:30 PM

Friday, December 20

Parish Office will be Open Regular Hours

Saturday, December 21

Children's Choir Rehearsal for Christmas, Music Room..... 10:30 AM
 STACKS, Room 102 - 104..... 1:00 PM
 Confessions..... 3:15 PM

Sunday, December 22

Confessions..... 9:00 AM

Last Dates for Confession before Christmas

Saturday, December 21 from 3:15 - 4:00 PM
 Sunday, December 22 from 9:00 - 9:50 AM

Care Facility Liturgies This Week

Oakwood: Friday, December 20, Rosary
Brookdale: No Service This Week
Sebring: No Service This Week

Weekly Stewardship of Treasure

December 7/8

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Offertory / Envelopes | \$19,088 |
| Building Fund | \$3,308 |
| Capital Improvement Fund..... | \$90 |
| Christmas Flowers | \$415 |
| Christmas Baskets | \$170 |
| Retired Priests of the Diocese..... | \$2,020 |
| St. Vincent de Paul..... | \$30 |

Counters Schedule

Monday, December 16: Jan McGinley and Edward Corcoran
Monday, December 23: Aeki Baik and Barbara Rudin

Mass Intentions for This Week

Saturday, December 14

4:30 PM Deceased Members of the Priebe Family ☩

Sunday, December 15: 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Colette Faust ☩
 10:00 AM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners
 6:30 PM Obispo Donald Hying ☩

Monday, December 16

8:30 AM Neuheisel and Murphy Family ☩

Tuesday, December 17

5:30 PM Matthew Thomas ☩

Wednesday, December 18

8:30 AM Jerry Conwell ☩

Thursday, December 19

7:30 AM Ken Opitz ☩

Friday, December 20

8:30 AM Pat Schwoegler and the Deceased Members of the Schwoegler Family ☩

Saturday, December 21

4:30 PM Michael and Stella Keyes ☩

Sunday, December 22: 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Jane Johnson ☩
 10:00 AM Alfred Maier ☩
 6:30 PM St. Thomas Aquinas Parishioners

Readings for the Week of December 15

Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10/ Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 [Is 35:4]/Jas 5:7-10/
 Mt 11:2-11
Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [4]/Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:1-17
Wednesday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 [cf. 7]/Mt 1:18-25
Thursday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17 [cf. 8]/Lk 1:5-25
Friday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/Lk 1:26-38
Saturday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45
Next Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/Rom 1:1-7/
 Mt 1:18-24

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Monthly Envelope and Offertory Income

Actual vs. Budget for November 2019

| | |
|----------------|----------|
| Budgeted | \$98,733 |
| Actual | \$94,694 |
| Variance Month | (4,039) |

Fiscal Year to Date Actual vs. Budget (July - November)

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Budgeted | \$468,992 |
| Actual | \$468,076 |
| Variance Year to Date | (\$916) |

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Padre Bart Timmerman, Párroco

Tercer domingo de Adviento: Convertirnos en una Parroquia Atractiva

Este tercer domingo de Adviento se llama "Domingo de Gaudete", el día en que encendemos la vela de color rosa en la Corona de Adviento. Se usan vestimentas de color rosa para enfatizar nuestra alegría de que se acerca la Navidad. "Gaudete" significa "regocijarse". Este día nos recuerda la alegría que está por venir, y sirve, en medio de esta temporada de penitencia, como una especie de descanso cuando recordamos la esperanza que tenemos por la venida de Nuestro Señor Jesús. Estamos llenos de la alegría de nuestra vida con Jesucristo y siempre estamos llenos de alegría por el misterio de la encarnación: el nacimiento de Jesús. ¿Cómo podemos invitar a otros a la experiencia de alegría que hemos llegado a conocer como discípulos de Jesús?

El Sacramento de la Reconciliación

Los invito a celebrar el Sacramento de la Reconciliación durante esta temporada de Adviento. El Adviento nos prepara para las 3 Venidas de Cristo: 1. Cristo viniendo en la historia en su nacimiento en Belén; 2. Cristo viene en misterio en cada momento de nuestras vidas; y 3. Cristo viene en Majestad al final de los tiempos. Ir a la confesión es la mejor manera de prepararse para las 3 venidas de Cristo. La mejor manera de celebrar a Cristo que viene en la historia en la primera Navidad es recibir la Comunión en estado de gracia cuando asistimos a la Misa de Navidad. La mejor manera de prepararnos para que Cristo venga en misterio a nuestras vidas es alejándose del pecado y siendo abierto a recibir a Jesús cuando él venga a nuestras vidas cada día. La mejor manera de prepararse para que Cristo venga en majestad al final de los tiempos es liberarse del pecado y estar listo para el cielo. Hoy, el domingo, tenemos una oportunidad adicional para el Sacramento de la Reconciliación a las 11:15 AM. También tenemos nuestros horarios regulares cada semana. ¡Estás invitado y bienvenido a este Sacramento de sanación mientras nos preparamos para la venida de Jesucristo!

¡Agradecimientos!

Misa OLG y Fiesta

Gracias a todos los que hicieron realidad nuestra Misa y Fiesta en honor a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe el jueves pasado. Gracias a todos los que asistieron a la misa y la fiesta. Fue

Misa en español

Domingos 6:30 PM

Confesiones

Sábados 3:15 - 4:10 PM y por cita con el párroco

Adoración al Santísimo

Lunes 2:00 - 4:00 PM en la capilla

Martes 4:15 - 5:25 PM en la capilla

Viernes 9:00 - 10:00 AM en la capilla

Rosarios en español

Jueves 6:00 PM

Estudio Bíblico en español

Jueves 7:00 PM

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Sacramentos y otros

Para Bautismos, Primera Comunión, Confirmación, Matrimonios y Quinceañeras contacte a Lorianne Aubut. Para la unción de los enfermos contacte a Mary Bailey.

una hermosa celebración de nuestro amor y devoción a la Santísima Virgen María que se le apareció a San Juan Diego para recordarnos a todos que somos hijos amados de Dios. Su aparición como mujer mestiza ayudó a evangelizar y a llevar a innumerables indígenas a creer en Jesús a través de la fe católica. Ella continúa cuidando de nosotros hoy y nos lleva más cerca de su Hijo, Jesús.

Canastas de Comida Navideñas

Gracias a todos los que trajeron comida y suministros para nuestras canastas de alimentos navideñas. Gracias a todos los que ayudaron a empacar y entregar las canastas. Fue otro evento exitoso que ayudó a nuestros vecinos necesitados que luchan contra el hambre.

Regalos del Corazón

Gracias a todos los que trajeron regalos para las familias necesitadas para ayudarlos a hacer de la Navidad un momento especial para sus hijos y familias.

Colecciones de Acción de Gracias

Gracias por hacer del Día de Acción de Gracias una época especial del año para nuestra comunidad parroquial. Su asistencia y generosidad son muy apreciadas en nuestras Liturgias de Acción de Gracias.

Recolectamos \$383 para la despensa de alimentos Lussier en nuestro servicio de oración ecuménica de acción de gracias.

Recolectamos \$1,577 en el ofertorio para nuestra Conferencia STA St. Vincent de Paul en nuestra Misa del Día de Acción de Gracias.

Venta de Galletas Navideñas

Gracias a todos los que ayudaron a que la Venta de Galletas fuera un éxito. Las ganancias benefician a las canastas de alimentos de Navidad.

If you had five minutes to speak about your love of Christ, what would you say about your belief?

Reprint from Catholic Herald (<http://madisoncatholicherald.org/>)

Bishop Hying's Column
Thursday, Nov. 28, 2019

The kerygma also reminds us of other key Scriptural figures -- Peter standing up in the streets of Jerusalem on the feast of Pentecost to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus for the first time; Paul preaching the meaning of faith in Jesus as Lord and Messiah, and his letters as thoughtfully theological follow-ups to the kerygma.

Proclaiming the Gospel

The task of every vocation in the Church, from those in Holy Orders to the Religious to the lay faithful, is to proclaim the Gospel. This mission is the fundamental purpose of the Body of Christ.

Advent is a significant moment for us to go back to the basics of our faith. Who is Jesus for us? How have we experienced him? How do I grow in my relationship with the Lord? How do I better proclaim the love, mercy, and forgiveness that I have experienced flowing from his merciful heart?

A simple way to understand the kerygma is to imagine the content of your Christian elevator speech. If you were with someone who has never heard of Jesus Christ, or who has no religious faith, and you have five minutes to speak about your own belief, what would you say? What fundamentals constitute the absolute essence of Christianity and our convictions about Jesus? How do we both express and summarize the most significant message ever shared?

Four components

Many theologians today see four components in the kerygma.

1. God loves you in a radical, unconditional, and life-changing way through the incarnation, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
2. The effects of sin and death, both in our personal lives and the entire human race, have pushed us into a state of alienation and brokenness.
3. Never giving up on us, Jesus Christ offers us new life through the mercy and forgiveness flowing from the Paschal Mystery.
4. When we accept the Lord's gracious offer, we become a new creation and are called to witness the love and truth of Christ to others as missionary disciples.

In these weeks of Advent, I want to reflect deeper on these four components of our Christian faith as we prepare to welcome the Lord into our lives with renewed hearts and joyful spirits.

God's unconditional love

To proclaim that God loves us always feels like a tired cliché, so often have we heard it. Yet, have we really absorbed it? Do we not all painfully struggle to accept God's unconditional love in our hearts and truly feel the enormity of the divine grace and mercy? We all feel unworthy, broken, sinful. How could God actually love me and know me by name?

Moving from the love of God as a beautiful idea to an experienced reality requires a lifetime of conversion. For some of us, dramatic moments where God broke into our lives with fire and power stand as signposts along our pilgrim way. For others, the unveiling of God's love was more gradual and quiet, a peaceful unfolding of evolving grace and growing intimacy with the Divine Mystery.

Parishioners who do Cursillo or Christ Renews His Parish weekends, folks who go on an extended retreat, seekers who find a mentor who walks them through the Bible, individuals who have experienced a powerful moment of forgiveness or reconciliation will all say that these encounters made God real for them. They come back to their regular lives all charged up, animated, moved, and enlivened.

They cease looking at the practice of religion as an obligatory burden, but now as a spiritual adventure, their love response to the One who loves them in a radical and irrevocable way. The presence and mercy of Christ is no longer an ethereal concept, but rather a specific and practical reality which begins to form and influence everything they say, do, and think.

They have begun to fall in love with God!

First week of Advent

As we move through this first week of Advent, I invite you to enter deeply into prayer and meditate on the Scriptures. In the index of your Bible, you should be able to find an entry which lists all of the passages relating to the love and mercy of God. Read some of them and ponder the great love God has for you. Recall the key moments in your life when you truly felt the merciful presence of God.

Thank the Lord for this gracious gift. Speak of your love to him in your own words. Contemplate an image of the Sacred Heart or the Divine Mercy. Imagine the Lord embracing you, healing you, forgiving you. Feel the peace and joy which flow from this encounter.

Share with someone in your life an experience of God's love which changed you. Speak to someone who is sorrowing or suffering with your own tender words of mercy. Let the fire of the Divine Presence flow through you into the hearts and minds of others in ways that are authentic, natural, and sincere.

These days of Advent, which contain the liturgical Scripture passages filled with hope and expectation, the growing darkness and cold around us, and the advancing beauty of Christmas are custom-made for reflection on the beautiful love of God.

I am praying for you and ask your prayers for me, as we advance together into this consoling, saving Mystery who is also a Person, the One who loves us and gave himself for us - Jesus Christ, the Lord and Messiah!

Si tuvieras cinco minutos para hablar sobre tu amor a Cristo, ¿qué dirías sobre tu creencia?

Columna del Obispo Hying

Jueves, 28 de noviembre de 2019 -12: 00 AM

El Kerygma también nos recuerda otras figuras clave de las Escrituras: Pedro de pie en las calles de Jerusalén en la fiesta de Pentecostés para proclamar la resurrección de Jesús por primera vez; Pablo predica el significado de la fe en Jesús como Señor y Mesías, y sus cartas como seguimientos cuidadosamente teológicos del Kerygma.

Proclamando el Evangelio

La tarea de toda vocación en la Iglesia, desde los que están en las órdenes sagradas hasta los religiosos y los fieles laicos, es proclamar el Evangelio. Esta misión es el propósito fundamental del Cuerpo de Cristo.

El Adviento es un momento significativo para que regresemos a los principios básicos de nuestra fe. ¿Quién es Jesús para nosotros? ¿Cómo lo hemos experimentado? ¿Cómo puedo crecer en mi relación con el Señor? ¿Cómo proclamo mejor el amor, la misericordia y el perdón que he experimentado fluir de su corazón misericordioso?

Una manera simple de entender el Kerygma es imaginar el contenido de tu discurso cristiano en el ascensor. Si estuvieras con alguien que nunca ha oído hablar de Jesucristo, o que no tiene fe religiosa, y tienes cinco minutos para hablar sobre tu propia creencia, ¿qué dirías? ¿Qué fundamentos constituyen la esencia absoluta del cristianismo y nuestras convicciones sobre Jesús? ¿Cómo expresamos y resumimos el mensaje más significativo jamás compartido?

Cuatro componentes

Muchos teólogos hoy ven cuatro componentes en el Kerygma.

- 1) Dios te ama de una manera radical, incondicional y que cambia la vida a través de la encarnación, el ministerio, la muerte y la resurrección de Jesucristo.
- 2) Los efectos del pecado y la muerte, tanto en nuestra vida personal como en toda la raza humana, nos han llevado a un estado de alienación y quebrantamiento.
- 3) Sin renunciar a nosotros, Jesucristo nos ofrece una nueva vida a través de la misericordia y el perdón que fluye del misterio pascual.
- 4) Cuando aceptamos la generosa oferta del Señor, nos convertimos en una nueva creación y estamos llamados a presenciar el amor y la verdad de Cristo a los demás como discípulos misioneros.

En estas semanas de Adviento, quiero reflexionar más profundamente sobre estos cuatro componentes de nuestra fe cristiana mientras nos preparamos para recibir al Señor en nuestras vidas con corazones renovados y espíritus alegres.

Amor incondicional de Dios

Proclamar que Dios nos ama siempre se siente como un cliché cansado, tan a menudo lo hemos escuchado. Sin embargo, ¿realmente lo hemos absorbido? ¿No todos luchamos dolorosamente para aceptar el amor incondicional de Dios en nuestros corazones y realmente sentimos la enormidad de la gracia y la misericordia divinas? Todos nos sentimos indignos, rotos, pecaminosos. ¿Cómo podría Dios realmente amarme y conocerme por mi nombre?

Pasar del amor de Dios como una hermosa idea a una realidad experimentada requiere una vida de conversión. Para algunos de nosotros, los momentos dramáticos donde Dios irrumpió en nuestras vidas con fuego y poder se erigen como señales en nuestro camino de peregrinación. Para otros, la revelación del amor de Dios fue más gradual y silenciosa, un desarrollo pacífico de la gracia en evolución y una creciente intimidad con el Misterio Divino.

Los feligreses que hacen Cursillo o Cristo Renueva a su Párrquia los fines de semana, las personas que van a un retiro prolongado, los buscadores que encuentran un mentor que los guía por la Biblia, las personas que han experimentado un poderoso momento de perdón o reconciliación dirán que estos encuentros hicieron a Dios real para ellos. Vuelven a sus vidas normales, todos cargados, animados, conmovidos e iluminados.

Dejan de ver la práctica de la religión como una carga obligatoria, pero ahora como una aventura espiritual, su respuesta de amor a Aquel que los ama de una manera radical e irrevocable. La presencia y la misericordia de Cristo ya no es un concepto etéreo, sino más bien una realidad específica y práctica que comienza a formar e influir en todo lo que dicen, hacen y piensan.

¡Han comenzado a enamorarse de Dios!

Primera semana de Adviento

A medida que avanzamos en esta primera semana de Adviento, los invito a entrar profundamente en oración y meditar en las Escrituras. En el índice de su Biblia, deberías poder encontrar una entrada que enumere todos los pasajes relacionados con el amor y la misericordia de Dios. Lee algunos de ellos y reflexiona sobre el gran amor que Dios tiene por ti. Recuerda los momentos clave de su vida en los que realmente sentiste la presencia misericordiosa de Dios.

Gracias al Señor por este regalo tan amable. Háblale de tu amor con tus propias palabras. Contempla una imagen del Sagrado Corazón o la Divina Misericordia. Imagina que el Señor te abraza, te cura, te perdona. Siente la paz y la alegría que fluye de este encuentro.

Comparte con alguien en tu vida una experiencia del amor de Dios que te cambió. Habla con alguien que esté triste o sufriendo con tus propias tiernas palabras de misericordia. Deja que el fuego de la Presencia Divina fluya a través de ti hacia los corazones y las mentes de los demás de manera auténtica, natural y sincera.

Estos días de Adviento, que contienen los pasajes de las Escrituras litúrgicas llenos de esperanza y expectación, la creciente oscuridad y el frío que nos rodea y la belleza avanzada de la Navidad están hechos a medida para reflexionar sobre el hermoso amor de Dios.

Rezo por ti y pido tus oraciones por mí, a medida que avanzamos juntos en este Misterio consolador y salvador que también es una Persona, Aquel que nos ama y se entregó por nosotros: ¡Jesucristo, el Señor y el Mesías!

Gift to St. Thomas Aquinas of the Image of Divine Mercy

By John and Jo Ann Szczepaniuk

We recently returned from a 1400-mile bus tour of Poland, the home of John's grandparents who immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s.

We wanted to get a gift for St. Thomas Aquinas that is representative of Poland, the home of St. Pope John Paul II and St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, and we decided on the Divine Mercy Image.

Our Trip

The tour started in Warsaw, then headed north to Marlborck Castle, the seat of the Order of Teutonic Knights, and on to the Baltic Sea and Gdańsk and the shipyards, the birthplace of the Solidarity movement led by Lech Walesa.

We drove south to the home of Copernicus in Toruń and on to Wrocław, whose cathedral is the coronation site of 5 Polish kings and the tomb of St. Adalbert.

Our next destination was the Holocaust Memorial at Oswiecim, the location of the Auschwitz I and II Birkenau concentration and extermination camps, kept so that humanity will never forget one of the worst periods in history. At the Memorial we noticed many grade school and high school students visiting the site. All students in Poland visit the Memorial as a part of their education.

After visiting Zakopane, a major mountain resort at the foot of the Carpathian mountains, we spent 3 days around Kraków, then continued on to Częstochowa to tour the Jasna Gora Monastery and view the painting of Our Lady of Częstochowa (sometimes referred to as the Black Madonna). Then back to Warsaw and home.

Visiting places associated with St. Pope John Paul II and St. Maria Faustina

On Sunday during our stay in the Kraków area, we traveled to Wadowice, the birthplace of St. Pope John Paul II, to attend Mass at the Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where Karol Wojtyła was baptized and confirmed and served as an altar boy. Near the Basilica we toured a museum containing Wojtyła family flat and purchased a picture of The Image of Divine Mercy.

Back in Krakow we visited the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy where St. Maria Faustina Kowalska is buried. Divine Mercy is associated with the apparition of Jesus to St. Faustina, in which Our Lord commanded a picture be painted according to the pattern that St. Faustina had seen and that this image be venerated. We wanted to visit this site because we pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy after Wednesday 8:30 Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas and Jesus told St. Faustina "It pleases me to grant everything souls ask of me by saying the Chaplet." It was also special to us that St. Faustina's feast day is October 5, which is also John's birthday.

At a side altar in the old church on the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy site we prayed for blessings for our family and placed the Divine Mercy picture we had purchased in Wadowice on a relic of St. Faustina.

Some Help from St. Faustina

The next question was how we would ship this framed picture back to Madison. The next morning we went to the post office down the block and their only option was to make our own box from their standard boxes. We tried and this did not work. We went back to the hotel and discussed our situation with the recep-

tionist and she suggested we visit a hobby store, two blocks down the street. The hobby store could not help us; but they suggested we try an art supply store down the street and to the left.

At the art supply store we showed the plastic-wrapped picture to the young man working there and explained that we would like it packaged for shipment as a gift to our parish in the US. He proceeded to construct a one-of-a-kind box for the picture. The unbelievable part came next when we presented our credit card for payment and he responded that "we will not charge you for a service like this." We returned to the hotel and the receptionist helped us prepare the postal paperwork.

St. Faustina was truly with us.

We mailed the picture from Kraków on Monday, October 7 and picked it up in Madison on December 2. Bishop Hying blessed the picture on December 4 when he celebrated the morning Mass with St. Ambrose Academy. It is now in the St. Thomas Aquinas chapel.

We encourage everyone to pray The Chaplet of Divine Mercy whether in our chapel after Wednesday morning Mass or as an individual prayer.

Our Lord Jesus Christ and St. Faustina were certainly walking with us on our trip.



Regalo a Santo Tomás de Aquino de la Imagen de la Divina Misericordia Por John y Jo Ann Szczepaniuk

Recientemente regresamos de un recorrido en autobús de 1400 millas por Polonia, el hogar de los abuelos de John que emigraron a los Estados Unidos a principios del siglo XX.

Queríamos obtener un regalo para Santo Tomás de Aquino que sea representante de Polonia, el hogar de San Juan Pablo II y Santa María Faustina Kowalska, y nos decidimos por la Imagen de la Divina Misericordia.

Nuestro viaje

El recorrido comenzó en Varsovia, luego nos dirigimos al norte hacia el Castillo de Marlboro, sede de la Orden de los Caballeros Teutónicos, y luego hacia el Mar Báltico y Gdańsk y los astilleros navales, el lugar de nacimiento del movimiento Solidaridad dirigido por Lech Walesa.

Condujimos hacia el sur hasta la casa de Copérnico en Toruń y luego a Breslavia, cuya catedral es el lugar de coronación de 5 reyes polacos y la tumba de San Adalberto.

Nuestro próximo destino fue el Memorial del Holocausto en Oswiecim, la ubicación de los campos de concentración y exterminio de Auschwitz I y II Birkenau, documentado uno de los peores períodos de la historia para que la humanidad nunca olvide. En el Memorial notamos que muchos estudiantes de primaria y secundaria visitaban el sitio. Todos los estudiantes en Polonia visitan el Memorial como parte de su educación.

Después de visitar Zakopane, un importante centro turístico de montaña al pie de las montañas de los Cárpatos, pasamos 3 días alrededor de Cracovia, luego continuamos hacia Częstochowa para recorrer el Monasterio Jasna Góra y ver la pintura de Nuestra Señora de Częstochowa (a veces conocida como Virgen Negra). Luego de regreso a Varsovia y a casa.

Lugares de visita asociados con el Papa San Juan Pablo II y Santa María Faustina

El domingo durante nuestra estadía en el área de Cracovia, viajamos a Wadowice, el lugar de nacimiento del Papa Juan Pablo II, para asistir a la Misa en la Basílica de la Presentación de la Santísima Virgen María, donde Karol Wojtyła fue bautizado y confirmado y sirvió como monaguillo. Cerca de la Basílica recorrimos un museo que contenía el departamento de la familia Wojtyła y compramos una imagen de La imagen de la Divina Misericordia.

De vuelta en Cracovia visitamos el Santuario de la Divina Misericordia, donde está enterrada Santa María Faustina Kowalska. La Divina Misericordia está asociada con la aparición de Jesús a Santa Faustina, en la cual Nuestro Señor ordenó que se pintara una imagen de acuerdo con el patrón que Santa Faustina había visto y que esta imagen fuera venerada. Queríamos visitar este sitio porque rezamos la Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia después de la misa del

miércoles a las 8:30 en Santo Tomás de Aquino y además Jesús le dijo a Santa Faustina "Me agrada conceder todo lo que las almas me piden diciendo la Coronilla". También es especial para nosotros que el día de la fiesta de Santa Faustina es el 5 de octubre, que también es el cumpleaños de John. En un altar lateral en la antigua iglesia en el sitio del Santuario de la Divina Misericordia, oramos por bendiciones para nuestra familia y colocamos la imagen de la Divina Misericordia que habíamos comprado en Wadowice en una reliquia de Santa Faustina.

Un poco de ayuda de Santa Faustina

La siguiente pregunta fue cómo enviaríamos esta imagen enmarcada a Madison. A la mañana siguiente fuimos a la oficina de correos por la cuadra y su única opción era hacer nuestra propia caja a partir de sus cajas estándar. Lo intentamos y esto no funcionó. Regresamos al hotel y discutimos nuestra situación con la recepcionista y ella sugirió que visitáramos una tienda de pasatiempos, a dos cuadras de la calle. La tienda de pasatiempos no pudo ayudarnos; pero sugirieron que probáramos una tienda de suministros de arte a una cuadra y a la izquierda.

En la tienda de suministros de arte, le mostramos la imagen envuelta en plástico al joven que trabajaba allí y le explicamos que nos gustaría empacarla para enviar como regalo a nuestra parroquia en los Estados Unidos. Él procedió a construir una caja única para la imagen. La parte increíble vino después, cuando presentamos nuestra tarjeta de crédito para el pago y él respondió que "no le cobraremos por un servicio como este". Regresamos al hotel y la recepcionista nos ayudó a preparar el papeleo postal. Santa Faustina estaba verdaderamente con nosotros. Enviamos la pieza desde Cracovia el lunes 7 de octubre y la recogimos en Madison el 2 de diciembre. El obispo Hying bendijo la imagen el 4 de diciembre cuando celebró la misa de la mañana con la Academia St. Ambrose. Ahora está en la capilla de Santo Tomás de Aquino.

Alentamos a todos a rezar La Coronilla de la Divina Misericordia, ya sea en nuestra capilla después de la Misa del miércoles por la mañana o como una oración individual. Nuestro Señor Jesucristo y Santa Faustina ciertamente estaban caminando con nosotros en nuestro viaje.