



# Saint Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church

210 R63 Hwy-Indianola, IA 50125

Weekend Mass Saturday 4:30 pm, 8:00 am & 10:15 am Sundays

Sunday 8:00 am at Immaculate Conception-St Mary's

Tuesday- 6:00 pm mass

Daily Mass: WEDNESDAY-Friday 8:00 am

1st Tuesday of the Month at Good Samaritan Nursing Home 9:30 am

## St Thomas Aquinas Staff & Committees

Pastor Fr. Chris Fontanini	961-3026
Deacon Dave O'Brien	961-3026
Business Manager Leasa Garrett	961-3026
Director of Religious Education JoAnn Sayre	961-3026
Assistant Director of Religious Ed Elizabeth Williams	
Youth Minister (STAT) Todd Clancy	202-4670
Johna Clancy	708-0864
Maintenance: Joe Gezel	238-4543
Interim Maintenance: Jack Slinker	961-3026
Chaplain to Nursing Homes: Judy Sheets	961-3026
Assistant Chaplain to Nursing Homes: Deacon Ed Miller	961-3026
Trustees: Claire Patin 491-5149 / Interim Tim Gauger	961-3026
Pastoral Council, Chair: Mimi Kelly	321-4286
Social Concerns: Kris Gross	210-0169
Altar & Rosary (STARS): Kassi Hoxmeier	308-991-7927
Caring Hands, Pastoral Care: Helen Kollasch	961-5776
Parish Relations: Allison Carr	720-683-8355
Worship/Liturgy: Joyce DeGroote	783-3890
Hall Committee: Steve Mc Ginnis, Kristen Hanes, Kevin Parker and Leasa Garrett	
Knights of Columbus: Brian Hoxmeier	Koc.Indianola@gmail.com

**ROSARY:** Please join us in praying the rosary every Tuesday evening starting at 6:30pm in the church as we pray for peace, families and your special intentions. Also Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings the rosary is prayed at 7:40am.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation will be by appointment ONLY at this time. Please call the office to schedule an appointment.**

**Liturgy of Baptism:** Parents are requested to call the Parish Office to arrange for pre-baptism sessions and must be registered with the church, one sponsor must be Catholic.

**Liturgy of Marriage:** Call at least 6 months in advance to make arrangements. Pre-Marriage Program is required.

**Prayer Chain:** Our parish has a prayer chain for special intentions. Requests can be for anyone in need.

Prayer requests call Kris Gross 210-0169, Jackie Ward 515-250-7385 or Debbie McDaniel 240-2029

**Care of the Sick & Shut-ins:** Call to request the Sacrament of the Sick, the Eucharist or to be placed on the Prayer Chain.

**Newcomers/Addresses:** Register in person; call the Office for Appointment.

**Change of Address:** Notify the office when you change your address.

## FEBRUARY 14

### SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

74: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7 Ps 147:1-6 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23  
Mk 1:29-39

**7:30 a.m. Reconciliation at Immaculate Conception**

**8:00 a.m. Public Mass Immaculate-Linda Croat**

**8:00 a.m. Public Mass at St. Thomas-Jim Jauron**

**10:15 a.m. Public Mass at St. Thomas-Kayden Daniels**

**12 Noon Public Mass at St Thomas-Bill Thomas**

**5:00p.m. No Mass at Simpson College until further notice**

## FEBRUARY 15

### WEEKDAY

335: Gn 4:1-15, 25 Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 Mk 8:11-13

**NO 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Thomas**

**4:30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

**6:30 p.m. Rosary at Immaculate Conception**

## FEBRUARY 16

### WEEKDAY

336: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10  
Mk 8:14-21

**6:00 p.m. Public Mass at St. Thomas-Velma Forret**

## FEBRUARY 17

### ASH WEDNESDAY

219: Jl 2:12-18 Ps 51:3-6b, 12-14, 17 2 Cor 5:20-6:2  
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**8:00 a.m. Public Mass at St. Thomas-For the intentions of the Strable Family**

## FEBRUARY 18

### THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

220: Dt 30:15-20 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 9:22-25

**8:00 a.m. Public Mass at St. Thomas-Loretta Petersen**

## FEBRUARY 19

### FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

221: Is 58:1-9a Ps 51:3-6b, 18-19 Mt 9:14-15

**8:00 a.m. Public Mass at St. Thomas-Gary & Vivian Elbert**

## FEBRUARY 20

### SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

222: Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-6 Lk 5:27-32

**3:30 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Reconciliation at St. Thomas**

**4:30 p.m. Public Mass at St. Thomas-Beverly Krier**

## FEBRUARY 21

### FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

23: Gn 9:8-15 Ps 25:4-9 1 Pt 3:18-22 Mk 1:12-15

**7:30 a.m. Reconciliation at Immaculate Conception**

**8:00 a.m. Public Mass Immaculate-Linda Croat**

**8:00 a.m. Public Mass at St. Thomas-Dr. Joe Brennan**

**10:15 a.m. Public Mass at St. Thomas-Carol VanAernam**

**12 Noon Public Mass at St Thomas-Frank Chiappine**

**5:00p.m. No Mass at Simpson College until further notice**

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. Closed for lunch Monday-Friday (12 p.m.- 1 p.m.)  
Parish Office: 961-3026/ Fax: 961-3458 Rectory Phone 962-2063 Website: [stthomasindianola.com](http://stthomasindianola.com)  
Facebook: St. Thomas Church, Indianola IA

## PASTORS REPORT

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Someone may ask you, why you do that; or you yourself may wonder why we do that. Lent is fast approaching, in fact it begins this week and I will share some of the Church's history and faith traditions about Lent.

Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This year due to COVID-19 ashes will be sprinkled on your head instead of placed on your forehead. The distribution of ashes comes from a ceremony of ages past. Christians who had committed grave fault performed public penance. On Ash Wednesday, the bishop blessed the hair shirts, which they wore during the forty days of penance, by sprinkling ashes, made from palms of the previous year. The penitents did not enter the church again until Maundy (Holy) Thursday after having won reconciliation by the toil of forty days' penance and sacramental absolution. (Catholic Online.org/clife/lent/ahwed.php)

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy of Vatican Council II states there are two important elements of Lent; recalling baptism or the preparation of it and penance in preparing the faithful to celebrate Easter. The word origin of "lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "lencten" meaning "Spring" and "lenctentid" the word for March; for which most of lent is in.

There is evidence of Lenten practices in the early church. With the legalization of Christianity in A.D. 313, lent became a regular practice emphasizing the 40-days of fasting.

Why 40 days? It has a spiritual importance; Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights on Mount Sinai fasting (no food or water) in preparation to receive the Ten Commandments; Elijah walked 40 days and nights to the mountain of the Lord, Mount Horeb; and Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days and 40 nights in the desert before he started his public ministry.

Once 40 days of lent was determined there was debate as to what consisted of 40 days; finally the practice of fasting six days a week excluding Sundays for six weeks and Ash Wednesday would constitute the number of fast days to forty before Easter.

The rules for fasting varied, some required abstinence from meat or things that come from flesh including eggs, milk and cheese. Others made exception for fish. This led to the blessing of Easter eggs and eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (from "to shrive" or hear confessions) or Mardi gras (French word translated to English is Fat Tuesday) the day before Ash Wednesday. Mardi gras is thought to be a hedonistic event; however its roots lie in the Christian calendar as the last hurrah before Lent begins.

The other rule was one meal a day in the evening or 3:00 PM. For some of us, we remember fasting from midnight to Sunday morning in order to receive the

Blessed Sacrament when we went to Mass. And we didn't eat meat on any Friday.

Today we abstain from meat on Fridays in Lent, fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and give something up for the Lord. Over time Lenten practices are simpler and easy. Father William Saunders stated he was taught, "If you gave something up for the Lord, tough it out. Don't act like a Pharisee looking for a loophole." Although, Lenten practices have changed over time, the purpose is the same, repent our sins and renew our faith.

The past twelve months has had its challenges, sacrifices made, loved ones lost and injustices. I suppose we could have a pity party; however remember Jesus had challenges, experienced injustices, sacrifices, and had a horrible, terrific and very painful death. Why? For who? For US and our sins!

This Lent I urge everyone to reflect on their life experiences of the last twelve months and consider spiritual works like attending the Stations of the Cross, doing a weekly holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament (St. Thomas has an Adoration Chapel), attend Mass, and go to reconciliation or pray the rosary or attend rosary (Immaculate Conception on Monday evenings or St. Thomas on Tuesday evenings), and participate in the Virtual Watch Retreat.

God Bless,  
Michelle

### Prayer List

For all those in need.

Doug Andreasen, Ed Leinen, Jean Veasman,  
Aron Babinski, Mike Metz, Patrick Shandley  
James Rector, Dianne Funk & for the Souls in Purgatory

Please contact Jackie Ward at jjward71@gmail.com or 515-250-7385,

Kris Gross at 210-0169 or Debbie McDaniel at 240-2029 to put someone on the Prayer Chain. They will notify the rest of the group to start immediate prayers for you or your loved one in need.

We would like to offer a prayer shawl to parishioners who are ill or in need of comfort.

The shawls were prayed over when created. Please make your request through one of the prayer chain leaders.

Please contact Leasa Garrett (961-3026) to add a name to the list published in the bulletin.

Names will remain on the list for a month unless you indicate otherwise.

### Ministry Schedule

**\*Please call someone to replace you if you aren't available to serve\***

#### **4:30 p.m. Mass February 20th:**

**Lector:** Adam Naughton  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Tim & Kelly Gauger  
**Ushers:** Derry Butler & Teri Cooper  
**Cleaning Vessels:** Tim & Kelly Gauger

#### **8:00 a.m. Mass February 21st:**

**Lector:** Mark Kollasch  
**Eucharistic:** Mike Schenfeld & Kathy Slinker  
**Ushers:** Jack & Kathy Slinker  
**Cleaning Vessels:** Mike Schenfeld & Kathy Slinker

#### **10:15 a.m. Mass February 21st:**

**Lector:** Ed Tormey  
**Eucharistic Ministers:** Ben Brackney & Logan Grover  
**Ushers:** Ed & Connie Tormey  
**Cleaning Vessels:** Ben Brackney & Logan Grover

**Please remember:** at least 2 Eucharistic Ministers need to stay after Mass to help clean the Sacred Vessels.

**Please Note:** That you are strongly encouraged to wear a face masks social distance and use hand sanitizer before entering and exiting the church.  
**Linens:** Judy Kirby

### **Gathering Table Monday Feb 15th 5:30-6:30**

We have been serving around 120 each time. This mission would not be possible if it wasn't for the support of all you wonderful people.

We are now using Sign up Genius. If you have trouble, please let us know what you would like to bring and we will fill it in for you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a8a72ca0f49-gathering>

This is again a grab and go meal, We want to thank you for all your help!

Thank you and God Bless  
The Gathering Table Committee



We currently have need for adorers at the following times. If you are interested in signing up for one of these hours please contact Anitta at 515-344-7850 or via email at [spennani1976@outlook.com](mailto:spennani1976@outlook.com)



Sunday: 6pm

Monday: Midnight and 1 am

Tuesday: Midnight, 1, 2, 3, 9 am and Noon

Wednesday: Midnight, 1, 2, and 11 am

Thursday: 3 pm

Friday: Each hour from Midnight to 6 am, 8, 9 am and at Noon

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

### **Iowa Catholic Radio Care-a-Thon**

Iowa Catholic Radio Care-a-Thon will be held February 22 - 26 and St. Thomas Aquinas has a team! Our team will be on the air from 5 - 6 PM, Monday, February 22 Team members are Jack and Kathy Slinker. Please consider making a donation to the station during that week, and especially call in when we are on the air! If you cannot give during our time slot, please let them know to give St. Thomas Aquinas team credit for the pledge. You can also donate online and check the box for St. Thomas Aquinas. If our team wins, we win a free dinner for Fr. Chris and 30 days of free advertising for our church! Can you volunteer your time to answer the phones at the radio station during the week? Please call Jackie if you'd like to confirm a time that works for you! If you have any questions or would like to give a donation directly to one of the team members, please contact Jackie Ward @ 515.250.7385 or [jackie@kwky.com](mailto:jackie@kwky.com). If making a donation is not possible at this time, please pray for the station as they work to Connect Listeners with Christ. May God bless you for supporting this ministry that supports the Churches and Schools in the Diocese.



### **Indianola KC Lenten Fish Fries**



7 Big Nights Serving from 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Drive-up Carry-out Service only \$10 per meal

The 1st dinner will be on Friday, February 12 and will be a Pre-Lent type dinner. We will be serving Fried Fish & Chicken Tenders along with French Fries, Coleslaw and a dinner roll.

The next 6 dinners will be the traditional KC Fish Fry: Fried Fish along with French Fries, Coleslaw and a dinner roll.

Watch the bulletin for more information.

### **Backpacks 4 Hunger Collection Continues**

Don't forget that we are collecting donations for Backpacks 4 Hunger during the month of February. You can drop off your check in the collection box at church (made out to St. Thomas Aquinas), put it in the collection basket or mail it in (St. Thomas Aquinas, 210 S Wesley St., Indianola, Iowa 50125). Please be sure to enter on the check description line and on the envelope that the donation is for Backpacks 4 Hunger.





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