



## ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC CHURCH

210 S Wesley Street- Indianola, IA 50125

515-961-3026

Weekend Mass: Saturday 4:30 pm - Sunday 8:00 am & 10:15 am  
Daily Mass: Wednesday - Friday 8:00 am and Tuesday 6:00 pm  
Mass at Smith Chapel on Simpson Campus: 5:00 pm on Sundays while school  
is in session

First Tuesday of the month at Good Samaritan Nursing Home: 9:30 am

### Saturday, December 6

180: Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8  
3:30pm — 4:15pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas - Tom Duffy

### Sunday, December 7

#### SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4: Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12  
8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas—For the People  
10:15 am Mass at St. Thomas— Mike Metz  
5:00 pm Simpson Mass

### Monday, December 8

#### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

689: Gn 3:9-15, 20/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38  
7:00 am Mass at St. Thomas - Virginia Basler (birthday)  
Noon Mass at Simpson  
7:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas

### Tuesday, December 9

182: Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14  
6:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas - Ron Day

### Wednesday, December 10

183: Is 40:25-31/Mt 11:28-30  
8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas - James Miller (birthday)

### Thursday, December 11

184: Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15  
8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas -Carol Bailey

### Friday, December 12

#### OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

690A: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or  
Lk 1:39-47  
8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas -Marvin "Duffy" Metz

### Saturday, December 13

#### SAINT LUCY

186: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
3:30pm — 4:15pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas - Bill Thomas

### Sunday, December 14

#### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

7: Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11  
8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas—For the People  
10:15 am Mass at St. Thomas— Richard & Violet Alexander  
5:00 pm Simpson Mass

## St. Thomas Aquinas Staff

### our lady of

Pastor: Fr. Adam Westphal	ext 201
Bookkeeper:	ext 200
Administrative Assistant: Michelle Helm	ext 205
Campus Ministry & Special Projects Coordinator: Trenton Priest	ext 203
Youth Minister (STAT): Diane DeWall	ext 209
Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Michelle Helm	ext 205
Facility Rental Coordinator: Nicola Brummer	ext 206
Maintenance:	
Housekeeper: Andrea Ooms	
.....	
Deacon Support: Rev. Mr. Dave O'Brien	ext 204
Rev. Mr. Tom Hunkele	ext 208
Caring Hands: Patty Alexander	ext 207

**Eucharistic Adoration with Exposition** is available Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Adoration chapel and most Friday mornings in the sanctuary.

**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.

**Liturgy of Baptism:** Parents must attend pre-baptism classes. Please call the Parish Office to register.

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

**Prayer Chain:** To be put on the prayer chain, call Kris Gross 515-210-0169, Jackie Ward 515-250-7385 or Debbie McDaniel 515-240-2029 or follow this link: [pray.mysta.org](http://pray.mysta.org)

**Care of the Sick & Homebound:** Call to request the Sacrament of the Sick or the Eucharist or follow this link: [care.mysta.org](http://care.mysta.org)


**Newcomers/Change of Addresses:** [new.mysta.org](http://new.mysta.org) Please update your address in a timely manner if you move.

**Bulletin Announcements:** Information must be in by 4PM on Tuesday to Michelle Helm - [mhelm@stthomasindianola.com](mailto:mhelm@stthomasindianola.com)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 9:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

**Parish Office:** 515-961-3026

**Website:** [stthomasindianola.com](http://stthomasindianola.com)

 Saint Thomas Church Indianola IA

**For Sacramental Emergencies:** call 515-961-3026 when prompted push #7

## FR. ADAM'S FIVE FOR DECEMBER 4 - DECEMBER 10

1) The STARS Cookie Walk and Vendor Fair is this weekend! Please come out on Saturday to support our STARS. The doors open at 8 a.m. and we'll wrap up the festivities at 11 a.m.

2) Last chance to be in our pictorial directory! Tuesday, December 9 is the last day for photos. So far 225 households have participated; we are hoping to get to 250 so we can get the nicer directory from the company. While the pictures will not be available by Christmas, they will be in the upcoming directory. Signup by going to [schedule.ucdir.com](http://schedule.ucdir.com), and entering church code: ia368 and password: photos or by calling the parish office. More info at [pic.mysta.org](http://pic.mysta.org).

3) Your generous gifts during December allow us to grow and to plan for ministry and facility needs in the new year.

Your generosity to the Operating Fund (Tithing) in 2024 allowed us to open the Director of Music Ministry position in 2025; thank you! We'd like to grow our team a bit more, but need to make sure the parish would like to see us grow. For year-end giving, please go to [give.mysta.org](http://give.mysta.org). If your employer offers matching gifts, please consider us!

Our Building Fund remains strong, thanks to your generous support. We were able to install a brand new freezer/cooler, and do a number of minor projects around our facility. At this time, we have no major capital projects in the works, and there is \$300,000 in our Building Fund.

4) Signups for ChristLife are NOW OPEN. Please go to [dc.mysta.org](http://dc.mysta.org) to begin your ChristLife journey. This is also the process for people entering the Catholic Church, and for those who are new to the parish to get connected more intimately.

If you've already completed Discovering Christ, please check your e-mail or church center announcements for how to join Following Christ or Sharing Christ.

5) Christmas Masses will be December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., and December 25 at 9:30 a.m.

## Adoration Update

Advent is a great time to begin spending an hour a week with Jesus as we reflect on our many blessings and prepare for the birth of Jesus.

We currently have adoration with exposition on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am to 9pm. We need a few more adorers on Wednesday and Thursday and are in need of just 4 adorers on Tuesdays in order to consider adoration with exposition on that day also.

Below are the hours that we still are in need of adorers.

*Tuesday: 1, 2, 3, and 4 pm*

*Wednesday: 6 and 8 pm*

*Thursday: 7 pm*

Please prayerfully consider signing up for one of these hours. Call or text, 515-344-7850 or email [spennani1976@outlook.com](mailto:spennani1976@outlook.com)

For those unable to commit to an hour each week, please come and visit Jesus anytime your schedule allows. He is present in the tabernacle at all times and exposed on Wednesday and Thursdays.

You may visit any time the church doors are open.

**\*\*Please note:** The North doors of the church are locked after 4pm on Wednesdays. All adorers/visitors must enter through the main doors and sign in. \*\*

**Please continue to pray that our hours will be filled.**

## Prayer List

*For all those in need, Linda Mullen, Aleisha Fox, Alex Lynch, Clara Hill, Bryan Bradley, Kailey Peters, Kerri O'Meara, Carol Proctor, Helen Kollasch, Deanna Bahr, Doug Andreasen, Patrick Shandley, Martin Wernimont, Joan McElroy, John Schletzbaum & all the Souls in Purgatory*

Please contact Jackie Ward at [jjward71@gmail.com](mailto:jjward71@gmail.com) or 515-250-7385, Kris Gross at 515-210-0169 or Debbie McDaniel at 515-240-2029 to put someone on the Prayer Chain. They will notify the rest of the group to start immediate prayers.

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 Michelle Helm at 515-961-3026 or [mhelm@stthomasindianola.com](mailto:mhelm@stthomasindianola.com) to add or remove names from the bulletin.





## Creation Care



*"But a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom." – Isaiah 11:1*

Corner

As Pope Francis urged in *Laudato Si'*, one thing we can do as we work to care for creation is to see the beauty already present around us. How often do we see stumps instead of sprouts or seemingly lifeless roots instead of buds? Yes, there are many sobering signs of how our earth is hurting, many "stumps" we can focus our attention on, but this week pray to keep your eyes open for where sprouts and buds are present in the world. As we go into the winter season in the northern hemisphere, chances are we won't see actual plant sprouts or buds coming up, but pay attention to the news for signs of life and regeneration in the fight against climate change.

Anyone interested in joining the Creation Care Team can call Rita Bresnan at 515-783-0643 or go to the Church App and request to join.

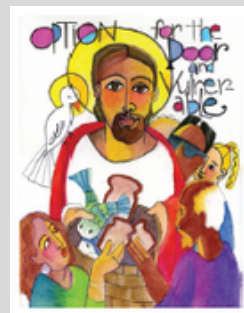
### A Lifetime of Service Deserves Care in Return

"Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for the Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next week.



## OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

"If you break a computer, it is a tragedy, but poverty, the needs, the dramas of so many people end up becoming the norm. ... If in so many parts of the world there are children who have nothing to eat, that's not news, it seems normal. It cannot be this way."



A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring, in a society marred by divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgement (Mt 25: 31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first. This is a realization that the poor and the vulnerable will take a special amount of work. Christ was with the poor the leper, and the blind. We might want to consider being there as well.

Pope Francis

### Advent Resources for Families

CGS USA provides resources to celebrate Advent at home with your children. Scan this QR code to go to the website and find the printable advent calendar we included in this bulletin as well as advent wreath prayers, a weekly reflection on the Sunday readings, and links to songs we sing in the atrium during Advent- your littlest ones will be thrilled to sing them at home with you!



### HELP WANTED

We are in need of a pianist for Mass as well as singers. If you like to sing or play an instrument, we would love to have you in the music ministry at St. Thomas! Psalm 100:2 says "Come before him with joyful song." NOT *perfect* song, so don't be shy! Please contact the office at 515-961-3026 or email [mhelm@stthomasindianola.com](mailto:mhelm@stthomasindianola.com) for more information.

## KNIGHTS NEWS

### Coats for Kids Program

As a reminder, the Knights of Columbus will be holding our annual Coats for Kids fundraising drive from November 28-December 7, 2025. In the past 5 years, this drive has raised over \$11,400 and provided over 400 coats to children in need in Warren County. Donations can be given via the Church App. We will also have some Knights who will be happy to collect your donations after all the masses during those weekends. Please consider donating to this worthy cause and give the gift of warmth to our local youth in need this holiday season!

All male parishioners 18 and over are always invited to attend our monthly meetings.

### The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a Holy Day of Obligation



Masses will be Monday, December 8  
7:00 am at St. Thomas  
Noon at Simpson  
7:00 pm at St. Thomas



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