



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 13

SAINT LUCY

186: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mr 17:19a, 10-13

3:30 pm - 4:15 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

Monday, December 15

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a?Mt 21:23-27

NO MASS AT ST. THOMAS

Tuesday, December 16

188: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Mt 21:28-32

6:00 pm Mass at St. Thomas - Gary & Vivian Elbert

Wednesday, December 17

193: Gn 49:2, 8-10/Mt 1:1-17

8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas - Ed Butler

Thursday, December 18

194: Jer 23:5-8/Mt 1:18-25

8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas -Scott Peterson and
Rich Peterson

Friday, December 19

195: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Lk 1:5-25

8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas -Loretta Petersen and
Wilma Hill

Saturday, December 20

196: Is 7:10-14/Lk 1:26-38

3:30pm — 4:15pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas - Greg Day

Sunday, December 21

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10: Is 7:10-14/Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas—For the People

10:15 am Mass at St. Thomas—Sr. Katherine Braun,
SSND for her Jubilee 50th Celebration

St. Thomas Aquinas Staff

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

Care of the Sick & Homebound: Call to request the Sacrament of the Sick or the Eucharist or follow this link: care.mysta.org


Newcomers/Change of Addresses: 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

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

Parish Office: 515-961-3026

Website: stthomasindianola.com

 Saint Thomas Church Indianola IA

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

FR. ADAM'S FIVE FOR DECEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 17

1) We are excited to welcome Brenna Blong to the St. Thomas Aquinas office team as our new Administrative Assistant! She will be joining us the week after Christmas. More information will be available soon on the website under the "About" section. Please visit stthomasindianola.com to check for updates.

2) By the way, have you seen our new website? It is exceptional and really presents who we are to the digital world. Thank you to Gradient9 for the hard work and creative genius that brought this project to completion. Please go to stthomasindianola.com to check it out!

3) We are looking to expand our ministry offerings in 2026, but need to be sure the parish supports our growth. Your year-end gifts help us to plan for the future. Please consider making a year-end gift to our tithing fund at give.mysta.org.

If you'd like to gift stock, the transfer forms are on the Kiosk- please let the Diocese know that St. Thomas is to be the beneficiary of the donation.

If you'd like to gift grain, we also have an account set up with Heartland Co-op- 62951 is the account number. Thank you for your help with St. Thomas Aquinas' future growth!

4) Signups for ChristLife are NOW OPEN. Please go to 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) Thank you to everyone who participated in the annual STARS Cookie Walk. Hundreds of volunteers made the event a resounding success; there were over 3,800 cookies sold!

Upcoming Mass Times

Christmas Eve	December 24	4pm & 6:30pm
Christmas Day	December 25	9:30 am
Vigil for the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God	December 31	5:00 pm
Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God	January 1	9:00 am

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

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, Derry Butler, 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 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 to add or remove names from the bulletin.



Creation Care



Corner

"The wilderness and the parched land will exult; the Arabah will rejoice and bloom; like the crocus, it shall bloom abundantly, and rejoice with joyful song." -Isaiah 35:1-2

While parts of the world are parched by more frequent and prolonged droughts and others are flooded by hurricanes and superstorms, we are called to be ever-more conscious of our water usage. Fresh water shortages are predicted to become even more extreme in the coming years. While we are fortunate to have access to clean running tap water, let's not take it for granted. This week, be mindful of times when you run the water longer than necessary in the shower, bathroom, or kitchen sink. Strive to shorten those intervals and make using less water your norm.

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.

Our Deepest Sympathy

It is with deep sorrow, but with hope in eternal life, that we share the news of the passing of Rich Gunnarson, husband to Jan Gunnarson, one of our long time parishioners who gives so much of her time, energy, and heart to St. Thomas.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Overton Funeral Home in Indianola. A Sharing Time will begin at 3:30 p.m. Inurnment of his cremains will take place at 10:00 a.m. Monday, December 15, 2025, at the Indianola I.O.O.F. Memorial Gardens Cemetery.



Please pray for his family and their comfort in this difficult time.

KNIGHTS NEWS



Sunday January 4 9:00 to 10:00 AM

**Pancakes or French Toast, Breakfast Sausage or Ham
Coffee and Juice**

Let us prepare your Sunday meal so you can spend time with your family and friends

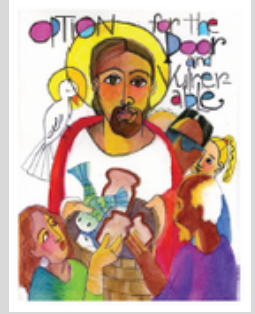
The cost is a free-will donation which is used to support our scholarships

We accept cash, checks, or credit/debit cards

All male parishioners age 18 and up are always welcome to attend our meetings

OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

This document quotes Saint Ambrose. "You are not making a gift of your possessions to the poor person. You are heading over to him what is his. For what has been given in common for the use of all, you have arrogated (take or claim something without justification: to yourself). The world is given to all, and not only to the rich."



Populorum Progressio- Pope Paul VI

Thank you so much!

From the bottom of our hearts, the St. Thomas and Altar Society wants to extend their gratitude to the bakers, volunteers, STAT group, St. Thomas parishioners and Fr. Adam for the prayers, countless hours, financial donations and support to make the St. Thomas Altar and Rosary Society Cookie Walk and Vendor Fair a HUGE success! Your dedication, faith, and generosity are truly appreciated. What an amazing faith community you are!

With deepest gratitude,

Kim DeLay & Patty Alexander

Christmas Poinsettias

The deadline to contribute to the memorial Christmas flowers and have their names listed in the bulletin is Monday, December 22. Please get your donation and requests in to the office by then. Contact Michelle at 515-961-3026 or mhelm@stthomasindianola.com with questions. Thank you!

Please Join Us

**at the Annual
St. Thomas Nativity Play and Carol Sing**



Come celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ enacted by the young people of St. Thomas and join in singing some wonderful Christmas songs.

Performance will be **January 4 at 12:30pm**

contact Michelle with any questions
mhelm@stthomasindianola.com or 515-961-3026

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