



## 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 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 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration

### Monday, December 22

198: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Lk 1:46-56

**NO MASS AT ST. THOMAS**

### Tuesday, December 23

199: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Lk 1:57-66

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

### Wednesday, December 24

#### CHRISTMAS EVE

200: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Lk 1:67-79

4:00 PM Mass at St. Thomas

6:30 PM Mass at St. Thomas

### Thursday, December 25

#### NATIVITY OF THE LORD

16: Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

9:30 am Mass at St. Thomas

### Friday, December 26

#### SAINT STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR

696: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Mt 10:17-22

8:00 am Mass at St. Thomas -Carol Bailey

### Saturday, December 27

#### SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

697: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

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

4:30 pm Mass at St. Thomas - Ed Butler

### Sunday, December 28

#### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

17: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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

10:15 am Mass at St. Thomas—Carol Bailey

## 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](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

8:00



### Fr. Adam's Five for December 18 - December 24

1) A reminder: Christmas Masses are 4 and 6:30 on Christmas Eve, and 9:30 on Christmas Day. We look forward to welcoming you and your families!

2) We made a change to our digital presence. Now, when you go to [mysta.org](http://mysta.org), it displays our website. We needed to do this so we could qualify for a google for non-profits account. To find the app homepage, you can go to [mysta.org](http://mysta.org) and then click "My Church Center" to the right. You can also go to [me.mysta.org](http://me.mysta.org).

3) We will be rolling out new e-mails for all our staff in the coming weeks. Please stay tuned for the shift- we will be going to [@mysta.org](mailto:@mysta.org) for all of our e-mail addresses.

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) 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](http://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.

End of Year Gifts must be post marked by the end of the year, or dropped off in the office by end of business on the 30th to count for 2025. You may donate online through the 31st.

Thank you for your help with St. Thomas Aquinas' future growth!

## 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.**

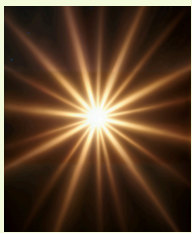
## Prayer List

*For all those in need, 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](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

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." – John 1:5*



Corner

Some of us have so much excess on Christmas Day: presents, food, family, a big house, electricity, heat, and running water, while billions of others worldwide don't have the basics. On a day when we celebrate Jesus coming as a light into the darkness, find some time to tone down the excess. Turn the lights down (or out), and spend a few minutes of quiet with only the light from some candles or the Christmas lights. Be more conscious about your use of electricity and your heating source, and celebrate that there is still light and warmth in the darkness.

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.

It is with deep sorrow, but with hope in eternal life, that we share the news of the passing of Berta Kordick, who among many things is also the grandmother of our pastor, Fr. Adam Westphal.



Her service was held on Monday, December 15, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Winterset.

Please pray for Fr. Adam and his whole family during this time of loss.

## 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

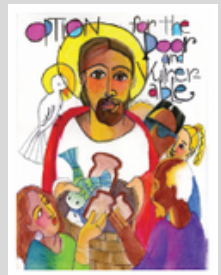
**We accept cash, checks, or credit/debit cards**

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

## OPTION FOR THE POOR AND VULNERABLE

If someone who has the riches of the world sees his brother in need and closes his Heart to him, how does the love of God abide in him?

1 John 3:17



## 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](mailto: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 12:00pm**

contact Michelle with any questions  
[mhelm@stthomasindianola.com](mailto:mhelm@stthomasindianola.com) or 515-961-3026

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Immediate Opening:** The Diocese of Des Moines is currently recruiting for a Managing Editor, The Catholic Mirror. This position is newly created and intended to ensure the production of print and digital publications. We have a bimonthly magazine mailed to all registered Catholic households within the Diocese of Des Moines, about 30,000. We also have a digital publication we're launching in December that will be emailed to subscribers every other week. Content from the publications will be shared on digital platforms including the diocesan website and social media. This position is under the direct supervision of the Director of Communications. The ideal candidate is self-motivated, has a good understanding of Catholic Church teaching, and can complete work on deadline. For more information, please visit our employment page on the diocese website.

## St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Job Opening

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is seeking a part-time team member to assist in the lunch program two days a week from 8:00 am – 1:30 pm. For more information or to apply, contact Cheryl Riedl at [criedl@saintfrancisschool.org](mailto:criedl@saintfrancisschool.org)



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