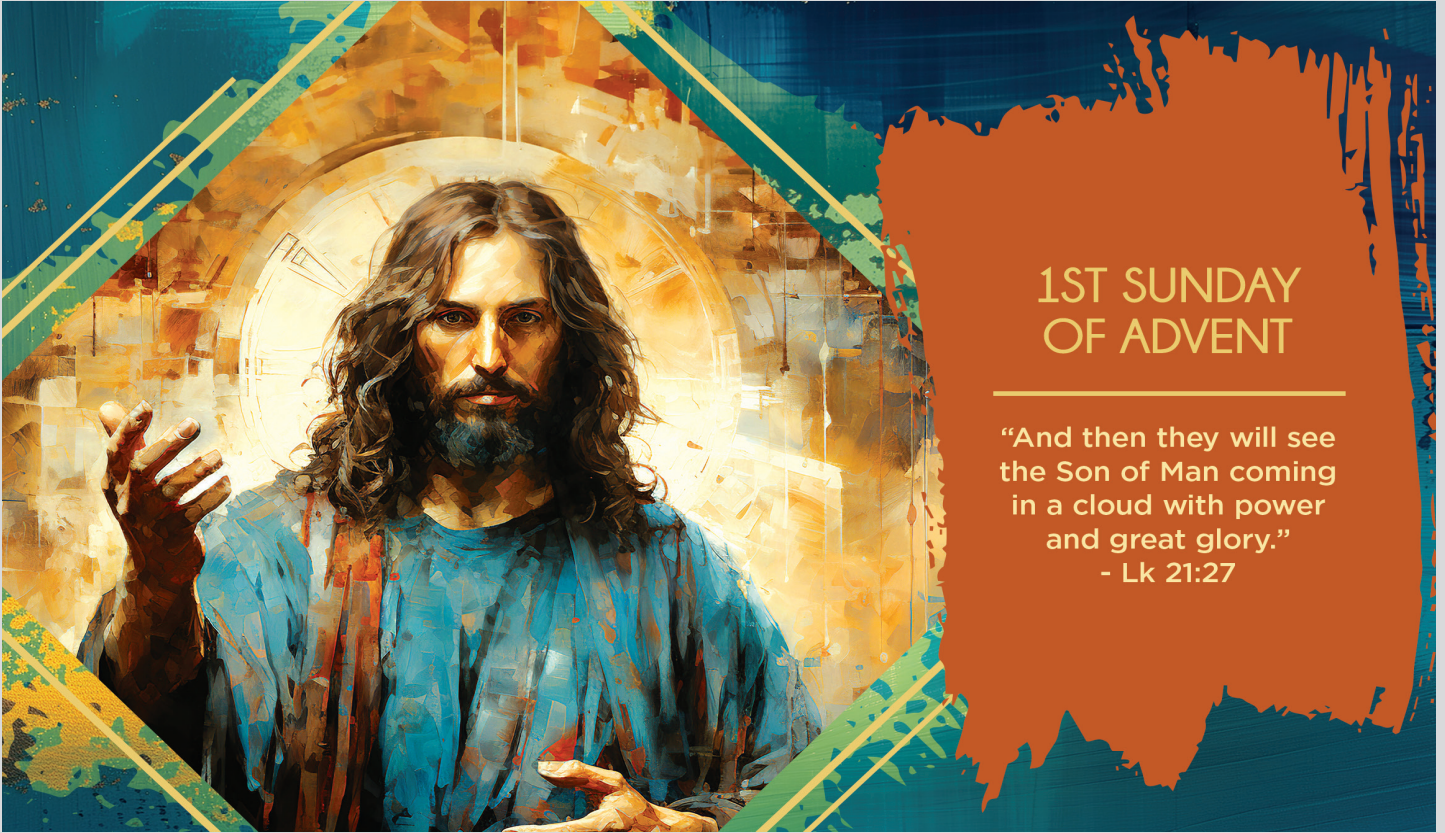




ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“And then they will see
the Son of Man coming
in a cloud with power
and great glory.”
- Lk 21:27

PARISH MISSION

Leading all souls to Jesus Christ.

DAILY MASS TIMES

Tues: 8am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Wed: 8:30am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Thurs: 8:30am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Fri: 8:30am @ **St. Thomas**
Sat: 8:30am @ **St. Thomas**

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

Sat: 4pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul
5:30pm @ **St. Thomas**
Sun: 7:30am @ **St. Thomas**
9am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
10:30am @ **St. Thomas**

CONFESSION TIMES

Tues: 7:15-7:45am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
3:30-4pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Wed: 7:45-8:15am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
3:30-4pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul
6:15-7pm @ **St. Thomas**
Thur: 7:45-8:15am @ Ss. Peter & Paul
Fri: 7:45-8:15am @ **St. Thomas**
3:30-4pm @ **St. Thomas**
Sat: 7:30-8:15am @ **St. Thomas**
3-3:45pm @ Ss. Peter & Paul

WELCOME VISITORS + PARISHIONERS

- **St. Thomas the Apostle is part of a parish cluster** with Ss. Peter and Paul in Loretto, meaning two or more parishes share a pastor. Clustered parishes may also share some staff and programming; parishes in a cluster arrangement retain their parish status and basic organizational structure; clustering does not necessarily lead to merger of parishes.
- **Parish Center Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm (closed Friday).
- **Wedding / funeral:** contact Fr. Jenson frjenson@saintsppta.org.
- **Membership:** email the Parish Office or complete the form at churchofstthomas.org/new.
- **Baptism:** email the Parish Office with baptismal candidates birth certificate.
- **Archdiocese's Victim Assistance Program:** call 651.291.4475.



 /StThomastheApostleMN

 /st.thomastheapostlemn

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Glen Jenson

Pastor

frjenson@saintsppta.org

Rev. Sebastien Bakatu

Weekend Assistant

Deacon Tom Utecht

Weekend Assistant

dcntutecht@saintsppta.org

Cindy Patnode

Parish Administrator

cpatnode@saintsppta.org

Jenny Rogalski

Office Administrator

jrogalski@saintsppta.org

Julianne Leighton

Director of Religious

Education,

Safe Environment

Coordinator

jleighton@saintsppta.org

Dave Evensen

Director of Maintenance

devensen@saintsppta.org

Carrie Ferdinandt

Music Coordinator

Dianna Anderson

Organist + Choir Director

Trustees

Roger Litchy,

Tom Hudinsky

Pastoral Council

Brady Day, Justin Leighton,

Angela Jendro, Michael

Hreha, [open spot 1](#), [open spot 2](#)

Finance Council

Carl Thelen, Rick Fadgen,

Mike Socha, John Ritz

Facilities Planning Committee

Carl Thelen, Steve Schmitz,

Fr. Glen Jenson, Susan

Wieneke, Jim Warwa, Jamie

Heuton, Roger Litchy, Tom

Hudinsky, Rick Fadgen,

Brady Day, Cory Plotts,

Cate Dugan

Capital Campaign Committee

Susan Wieneke, Cindy

Patnode, Jamie Heuton,

Kim Day, Cate Dugan,

Michelle Bartlett

WORSHIP

NOTES FROM FR. JENSON



This is the 1st Sunday of Advent and the Church's new year! Our Gospel readings switch from the Gospel of St. Mark to St. Luke. Last week, we ended the liturgical year focused on the last things and the Kingship of Jesus Christ.

As we begin the Church's new year, we focus on the beginning of God's plan of salvation for us through the birth of his Son at Bethlehem. Jesus came down to save us from sin so that God might have us with him forever in the glory of heaven. But for that to happen, we must acknowledge Jesus as Lord and repent our sins.

John the Baptist was sent as the call to repentance for all to hear. Jesus would be baptized by John, showing us clearly that repentance is the key to heaven. We now begin the short four-week season of Advent. Advent means coming or arriving. Like the wise virgins, we need to have our lamps filled with the oil of faith and love to meet the Lord on his birthday at Christmas!

The Rosary is perfect for deepening our faith during Advent, especially the Joyful Mysteries. If you struggle to find time for a whole Rosary, you could begin with a practice of saying three Hail Mary's a day. Our Blessed Mother, Mary, will help us to grow in the ability to love her son. Advent is the time to make the way of the Lord straight in our hearts. As we do this, the true meaning of Christmas can dawn upon us like the white dawn gently lightens the dark predawn sky as the sun's rising approaches the horizon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Pick up a 2025 calendar (one per family) courtesy of Gearty-Delmore Funeral Chapels. The calendars are located in the back of the church.
- Father Jenson is hosting another gathering at St. Therese on Friday, December 6, at 10:30am. It will be similar to the previous St. Therese gathering meant to help the parish cluster residents and soon-to-be residents get Catholic-connected.

REFLECT ON TODAY'S SCRIPTURE



First Reading:

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of God's promise to save Jerusalem so all can "dwell safely" in the land. Where in your life do you feel the safest?

Second Reading:

In preparation for the return of Jesus, Paul prayed that the believers in Thessalonica would love one another and conduct themselves in a way pleasing to God. As we enter the season of Advent, what could you do to actively prepare for the return of Jesus?

Gospel:

Jesus forewarns his disciples not to let the daily anxieties of life distract them from the coming day of his return. Who helps you when you are overcome with anxiety?

DONUT SUNDAY

All are encouraged to participate in the Catholic community following Sunday Mass including coffee, juice, and donuts (free-will offering). Just take a few steps to the Parish Center located northeast of the church.



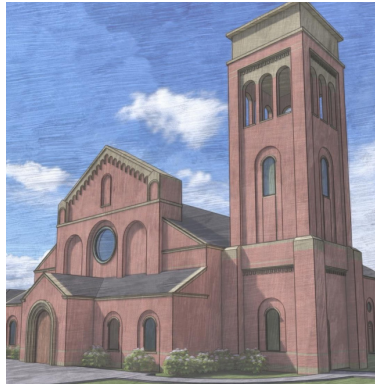
Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

There is only one king whose subjects can choose whether or not they will serve him. We choose Christ when we choose the truth. When we serve the truth, we serve Christ the King.

DONATE TO SUPPORT THIS PARISH + COMMUNITY

SUNDAY DONATION

- Place donation in offering basket during Mass
- Donate online (scan QR code)
- Set up automatic bank payments
- Mail check to:
St. Thomas the Apostle
20000 County Road 10
Corcoran, MN 55340



NEW CHURCH | CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In addition to prayers of support to meet the campaign goal, tax-efficient financial gifts to St. Thomas the Apostle can be made in various ways. Catholic Community Foundation (CCF) is our trusted partner that helps facilitate many of these transactions at no fee.

We want to pass along information on CCF's year-end gift dates with the holidays approaching. **Gifts of mutual funds should be initiated by December 6 and gifts of stock should be initiated by December 13 to ensure that the gifts arrive in the Capital Campaign account prior to year-end.** For more info or to donate/pledge to the Campaign, visit churchofstthomas.org/future.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (July 2024-June 2025 contributions vs. expenses) Capital Campaign contributions are not included.

	Nov 18-24	Fiscal YTD (21 weeks)
Envelope	\$3,234	\$95,904.35
Loose Plate	\$638	\$26,782.97
Electronic	\$1,501.54	\$43,154.59
Total	\$5,373.54	\$165,841.91
YTD Budgeted Expenses	\$200,214	
Over/(under)		(-\$34,372.09)

FR'S CHALLENGE: PARISH CENTER ROOF & WINDOW REPAIR

Donations received to date: \$54,758.50

Thanks to the current donation amount, we've ordered/purchased materials to replace the flat roof. This is currently scheduled to be installed in January 2025.

Over the past year, significant maintenance issues have affected the Parish Center. The flat roof has been leaking, causing damage to shared spaces. The shingled roof is also in need of immediate attention, as the insurance agent has noted that the shingles are past their effectiveness. Additionally, the bottom portions of windows in the classrooms and parish offices have rotted off and require replacements.



Our immediate challenge is to rally 150 families to contribute \$900 each, aiming to **raise a total of \$135,000**. This collective effort will enable us to address the urgent maintenance needs, including the two types of roofs and the windows in the classrooms and office at the Parish Center.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS

Make a donation in memory of a loved one for Christmas flowers. Please clearly write names on the envelope and place it in the box. The drop box is located at the back of the church. Christmas Memorials Mass Intention will be on Dec 24, at 9pm, and Dec 25, at 7:30 and 10:30am.



Help a local child have a bright holiday!

CHILDREN + YOUTH GIFT DRIVE

GIFTS BEING COLLECTED FOR CROSS SERVICES

Donate new unwrapped gifts December 1-20
Toys for children 0-10 years old
Gift cards for children 11-18 years old
You may also choose a gift idea from the tree in the Parish Center

Donation drop off:
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Center
During office hours M-Th 9am-4pm
20000 County Rd 10, Corcoran
765.420.2385
churchofstthomas.org/events-1/cross

CONSIDER AN END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTION

To make a contribution for the 2024 tax year, checks must be postmarked by December 31,

2024, or dropped off to the Parish Office by December 31 by 3pm. Checks received or post-marked in January will be counted towards 2025 contributions. Thank you for your generous support.

INVITE OTHERS TO PARISH CLUSTER OPPORTUNITIES

DECEMBER 2024

- **Men's Club Meeting** (*new date/time*) at St. Thomas | Dec 1, 7pm
- **Cookie bake and exchange** at St. Thomas | Dec 2
- **Faith Formation + Dinner** at St. Thomas | Dec 4
- **Family Intercessory Prayer** at St. Thomas | Dec 6
- **First Saturday Devotion** at St. Thomas | Dec 7
- **2nd Collection: Retirement Fund for Religious** | Dec 7/8
- **Holy Apostles Youth Group** at Ss. Peter & Paul | Dec 8
- **The Immaculate Conception Mass** at Ss. Peter & Paul | Dec 9, 8:30am (*Parish offices closed*)
- **Nourishing Hope** at St. Thomas | Dec 9
(*learn more at: ourfatherschurch.org/nourishing-hope*)
- **Well-Read Mom Book Club** at Ss. Peter & Paul | Dec 10
6:30-7:45pm, the group will discuss the book *My God and My All: The Life of Saint Francis of Assisi* by Elizabeth Goudge.
- **Faith Formation + Dinner** at St. Thomas | Dec 11
- **Holy Apostles Youth Group** at Ss. Peter & Paul | Dec 15
- **Knights of Columbus Meeting** at Ss. Peter & Paul | Dec 19
- **Last day to drop off toys + gift cards** at St. Thomas | Dec 20
- **Christmas Mass + Confession Times** | see previous page (*Parish offices closed Dec 24 + 25*)
- **Solemnity of Mary Mass** at St. Thomas | Dec 31, 5pm

JANUARY 2025

- **Solemnity of Mary Mass** at Ss. Peter & Paul | Jan 1, 9am (*Parish offices closed*)

COOKIE BAKE + EXCHANGE

The St. Thomas Women's Club invites you to join them on Mon, December 2, at 6:30pm in the Parish Center dining hall to bake and decorate cookies for home-bound parish members.

If you're interested in the cookie exchange that will follow the baking, bring three dozen of one of your favorite Christmas cookies; they will then be divided between all participants of the cookie exchange, and you will go home with a new variety of Christmas cookies!

Please contact
Kathy Gleason at
763.428.4696 if you
will be attending.



CHRISTMAS MASS + CONFESSION TIMES

The below times have been extended or added to regularly scheduled times. Plan ahead for Confession to avoid last-minute long lines.

MASS at St. Thomas the Apostle

Christmas Eve, Tues, December 24, 5pm + 9pm
Christmas Day, Wed, December 25, 7:30am + 10:30am
Solemnity of Mary, Tues, December 31, 5pm

CONFESSION at St. Thomas the Apostle

Wed, December 18, 6:15-7pm
Fri, December 20, 7:45-8:15am + 3:30-4pm
Sat, December 21, 7:30-8:15am
Sun, December 22, 3-4pm

MASS at Ss. Peter and Paul in Loretto

Christmas Eve, Tues, December 24, 4pm + 10pm
Christmas Day, Wed, December 25, 9am
Solemnity of Mary, Wed, January 1, 9am

CONFESSION at Ss. Peter and Paul in Loretto

Tues, December 17, 7:15-7:45am + 3:30-4pm
Wed, December 18, 7:45-8:15am + 3:30-4pm
Thur, December 19, 7:45-8:15am
Sat, December 21, 3-3:45pm
Sun, December 22, 7-8pm
Tues, December 24, 7:15-7:45am

WINTER FAITH CAMP

9TH-12TH GRADERS
FRIDAY, JAN. 24- SUNDAY, JAN 26TH
TRINITY WOODS, TREGO, WI
TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED
COST: \$250

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

jleighton@saintspta.org

Save the Date
Extreme Faith Camp
June 9-13, 2025



LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:

What's the story behind the Advent wreath?

Answer:

Each liturgical calendar season has its own local and regional rituals. During Advent, wreaths adorn church sanctuaries and family dining room tables. You may have said Advent wreath prayers in childhood or taken a turn lighting the candles. The Advent wreath is full of symbolism about Christ and his coming at Christmas. The wreath is made of evergreen boughs, reminding us that the life of grace doesn't falter with the changing seasons. It always remains fresh and new. Similarly, a circular wreath reminds us of the eternal, never-ending nature of God's love.

Candles remind us that Christ is the light of the world, the One who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." We use four candles to represent each week of Advent. Traditionally, they come in the liturgical colors of the season. Purple has historically represented penance and sacrifice. We see the same color for the season of Lent. However, we light a rose color on the third Sunday of Advent. The priest will wear rose vestments at Mass. This is Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. We're roughly halfway through the season on the third Sunday of Advent. The Church chooses the midpoint to remind us to celebrate in the midst of our anticipation! Whatever the color and whatever the day, the Advent wreath is a beautiful practice to focus our attention on Christ's coming at Christmas.



CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Question:

What is the difference between a cross and a crucifix?

Answer:

A crucifix always includes Christ's body, and a cross does not.



Maria's Voice

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION TIPS: POST-SEPARATION ABUSE

What does it feel like?

My ex-partner won't leave me alone after we broke up. They drive by my house or my work. They intimidate my new partner. I feel afraid for myself and the kids. My ex threatens to take me to court and continually hassles me. My ex sabotages plans for the kids and is turning them against me. Will this ever end?

What does it look like?

I notice, or my friend tells me that their ex is still super angry and is looking for revenge. Their ex spreads lies or tells overly personal information to people in their life (friends, children's teacher, family, etc.) to embarrass or discredit them, or so people side with the ex.

What's a Safe Action?

Consider your and your friends' safety first. Help them build a support network and safety plan. Encourage them to reach out for professional/legal advice. National DV Hotline: Call 1.800.799.SAFE (7233), text "START" to 88788, chat online: thehotline.org.

What's a healthy sign?

Partners part ways and move on with respect to the decision that was made to break up. They make what is best for their children their priority.

Tips provided by Maria's Voice and the League of Catholic Women Foundation. Domestic Abuse prevention education for safe homes and equal, healthy relationships. MariasVoice.org Maria Pew Family Foundation, dba Maria's Voice.



Saint of the week

Blessed Chiara Luce Badano (1971-1990) an ordinary teenager who freely gave her life to Jesus in joy and suffering. She was beatified in 2010, the first member of Generation X to be Beatified. In 2018 she was one of the patrons of the Synod on Youth.

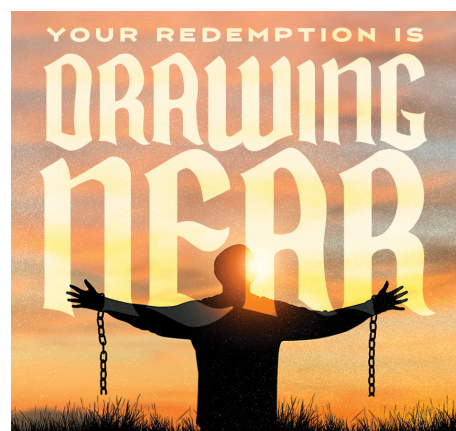
"Why did the Christmas tree go to the barber?"



"It needed to be trimmed."



As we prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas, decorating is a fun and festive way to get ready for Jesus' coming!



VOLUNTEER BE A HERO

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Our Lady of Loretto Chapel, is located in the old convent building near Ss. Peter & Paul church. To sign up for an hour, contact the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Office at 763.479.0535. Another way to help is to pray the *Memorare* to open more hearts to Adoration.



GET CATHOLIC CONNECTED



- Help with church campus clean ups
- Volunteer during Mass; Lector, Usher, Sacristan, Communion Minister, Altar Serve, Hospitality, etc.
- Support children and youth faith formation programs by being a Catechist or other.
- Help with fundraising
- Pack and distribute food for Nourishing Hope
- Join choir or play an instrument
- Volunteer for parish events; Soup Suppers, Ministry Fair, Feast Day Celebration, Parish Festival, Blue Mass brunch, Ham/Turkey Bingo, Garage Sale, Mission Quilters, etc.
- Help with funeral luncheons
- Be a substitute offering money counter

To get involved, contact the Parish Office.

PRAY FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS

REQUESTS

Add prayer requests to the Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is composed of parishioners dedicated to praying for others. To submit a prayer request or to join the Prayer Chain, please contact the Parish Office.

Blessed Virgin's Rosary Ministry

Prayer Intention for
December 2024

For the participants of the Blessed Virgin's Rosary Ministry and their families; and that this Christmas will bring families closer in love and forgiveness as they celebrate Christ's birth.

Each member is assigned a mystery of the Rosary to pray each day. New members are always welcome. To join, contact Sherry in the Ss. Peter & Paul Parish Office or Joanne Schumacher at jmschu@live.com.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

All are invited to family intercessory prayer for children and grandchildren. Prayer will be held on Friday, December 6, following the 8:30am Mass at St. Thomas. There is power in prayer! During these difficult and confusing times, children (young and old) need prayer!

The group will begin in the lower level of St. Thomas Church. Father Jenson will give a brief talk followed by some discussion. Then, finish up in the church, doing intercessory prayer for the family in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

First Saturday Devotion at St. Thomas the Apostle

"The Five First Saturdays Devotion is a request made by Our Lady of Fatima. The Blessed Mother promised to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation." Scan QR code to learn more and view requirements.

Confessions 7:30-8:15am
Rosary 7:50am
Mass 8:30am



December 7



THE SICK

To respect privacy, individuals may only request to add a name from their own family. Names will be removed after three months unless the requester notifies the Parish Office.

- Barb Frappier (thru 2.2.25)

THOSE IN THE MILITARY

To have a member of the U.S. Military listed or removed, please contact the Parish Office.

- Luke Hartwig | Army
- Tony Rammingier | Air Force
- Sara Schiller | Army National Guard

SEMINARY + RELIGIOUS LIFE

- Cory Plotts | Institute of Diaconate Formation, St. Paul Seminary
- Jake Rogalski | St. Michael's Abbey

LOOKING AHEAD

LITURGICAL MINISTERS | December 7-8

Ushers

Sat 5:30pm Michael Cain, Brian Dixon
 Sun 7:30am Clarence Olson, Mike Hubbartt, Marlin Kukla
 Sun 10:30am Chris Hanson, Paul Novotny, Greg Dvorsak, Pat Hank

Lector

Sat 5:30pm Rosemary Dixon
 Sun 7:30am Barbara Sesvold
 Sun 10:30am Ann Novotny

EMHC (Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion)

Sat 5:30pm Rosemary Dixon
 Sun 7:30am Shirley Dorcy
 Sun 10:30am Ann Novotny

Hospitality

Sun 7:30am John + Seonaid Ritz
 Sun 10:30am Tim + Michelle Bartlett

Priest

Sat 5:30pm Fr. Jensen
 Sun 7:30am Fr. Jensen
 Sun 10:30am Fr. Jensen



Mass INTENTIONS

December 3-8

Tues 8:30am: Parker, Grace, Jude, and Coy Apfelbeck
Wed 8:30am: Eleanore Florek †
Thur 8:30am: Eileen Muetzel †
Fri 8:30am: Ed Schumacher †
Sat 8:30am: Dorothy Jean McMichael †
 5:30pm: Jerome Ratke †
Sun 7:30am: Marc Tadych †
 10:30am: Patrick Joseph Lombardo †

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF December 1, 2024

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent
Tuesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Wednesday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Friday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
Saturday: St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent



MINISTRY SCHEDULER PRO

Ministry Schedule Pro (MSP) is the application used to schedule Liturgical Ministers.

Visit churchofstthomas.org/volunteer to access MSP, its User Guide, or view a short video on how to use the MSP mobile app.

Please contact the Parish Office to be added to the Liturgical Minister volunteer list.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF December 1, 2024

Sunday:

Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/
 1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
 Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/
 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
 Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/
 Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday:

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday:

Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
 Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday:

Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 (3)/
 Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS

The deadline for weekend bulletin submissions are 9am Mondays. Please contact the Parish Office at 763.420.2385 or email hello@saintsppta.org.

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