



St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate

The mission of the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate is to use our love and faith to inspire and serve God's people by cultivating a welcoming Catholic Community – working as one and living as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pastoral Directory

Pastor, Rev. Mark Osterhaus (563)852-3524
 E-mail dbq023@dbqarch.org
 Deacon Marvin Recker (retired) (563)879-3448
 Deacon Steve Strang (563)852-3435
 Deacon Ray Noonan (563)852-3181
 Deacon Joe Schockemoehl (563)852-3126
 Director of Faith Formation -
 Nicole Casey (563)852-3331
 E-mail dbq023ff@dbqarch.org

Pastorate Office

408 3rd Ave. NW; PO Box 699, Cascade, IA 52033
 Phone (563)852-3524
 FAX (563)852-3528
 E-mail dbq023sec@dbqarch.org
 Website www.stapastorate.org
 Hours Monday – Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm
 Friday: 8:30am – 1:00pm

Pastorate Support Staff

Business Manager, Kerri Takes
 E-mail dbq023bm@dbqarch.org
 Administrative Assistant, Shellie Schlemme
 E-mail dbq023sec@dbqarch.org
 Music Ministry, Becky Williams
 E-mail dbq023s@dbqarch.org

Aquin System of Catholic Education

Aquin Catholic Elementary School (563)852-3331
 Principal, Vicki Palmer
 E-mail vpalmer@aquin.org
 Aquin Little Angels Early Childhood Ctr 563-852-7020
 Director, Jenny Knapp jknapp@aquin.org

New Parishioners

Welcome! Contact the pastorate office 563-852-3524

Baptisms

Baptism class required.
 Contact Ray & Carol Noonan at 852-3181 to register for the class.
 Contact the pastorate office to schedule a baptism.

Weddings

Contact Fr. Mark at least six months prior to the wedding date.

Pastorate Council

Kevin Schockemoehl - Chair
 Bob Green – Vice Chair
 Mike Otting - Secretary
 Karen Knepper, Chuck Shanahan
 Chuck Noonan, Ed Stoll, Eric Vaske

Parish Council Contacts

St. Patrick – Wanda Loewen
 Sacred Heart – Chuck Noonan
 St. Peter – Kevin Schockemoehl
 St. Matthias – Bob Green

Pastorate Committee Opportunities

Call the Pastorate Office for more info
 Community Life, Faith Formation, Liturgy, Social Justice

Prayer Requests

Eileen Steffen – 852-7168
 Anita Gudenkauf – 852-3043
 Joyce Gibbs – 879-3271

Liturgy Schedule

(Cascade-C; Fillmore-F; Garryowen-G; Temple Hill-T W/C-Word & Communion Service)	
Sat Dec 12	4:00pm (F) Joe & Betty Mausser 5:30pm (C) Ralph & Florence Tranel
Sun Dec 13	8:00am (C) Leon, Berttha, Dale & Loras Driscoll 10:00am (C) St. Thomas Aquinas Past., Herb Green
Mon Dec 14	7:00am (C) W/C
Tue Dec 15	7:00am (C) Walter & Rita Connolly & Stanley Connolly 8:30am Aquin Mass Bob & Shirley Sadler
Wed Dec 16	7:00am (C) Bill & Imelda Beringer
Thu Dec 17	7:00am (C) Rusty Finn and the Finn & Takes Families, Mary L. Green
Fri Dec 18	7:00am (C) George & Tim O'Brien, Louie Merfeld & Natalie Regan
Sat Dec 19	4:00pm (T) Members of the Stoll Family, Tom Hoffmann, Randall Schoenherr, Zacharia Peiffer & Terese Peiffer
Sun Dec 20	5:30pm (C) St. Thomas Aquinas Past. 8:00am (C) Stan Callahan 10:00am (C) Andy & Helen Laban

Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2020

From Fr. Mark

Gaudete Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is called “Gaudete Sunday”, the Latin word for REJOICE!! Dating back to the Middle Ages, when the season of Advent involved more fasting and penance, lighting the rose-colored candle on the Advent wreath signaled that Christmas was drawing closer. This theme of rejoicing is emphasized in today’s second reading. St. Paul writes: “Brothers and sisters: Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Jesus Christ.”

“In ALL circumstances....” Could St. Paul be giving us a strategy for rejoicing even in THESE difficult times? Praying throughout the day, (and at night if you wake up a lot like I do) and giving thanks can help keep us from getting too down during this pandemic. We do not want to quench the energy and fire of the Holy Spirit. Many people in our area are grieving and suffering, even to the point of emotional exhaustion. It is important to remember Paul’s concluding words: “The One who calls you is faithful, and He will also accomplish it.” It is important that we place our trust in the Lord, who calls us and cares for us.

Pastorate

The St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate would like to thank The St. Thomas Aquinas Knights of Columbus Council #930 and the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 1926 for their generous gift of each paying for half the Memorial candles during the Pastorate Memorial Mass.

Special Parish Christmas Electronic Giving Opportunity

– An annual financial gift to the parish at Christmas is deeply personal and prayerful. To provide another way to give and make it easier for parishioners who wish to offer a Christmas gift to our parish, the Archdiocese of Dubuque has set up a special page on its website to give your Christmas gift via credit or debit card. Your gift will be given directly to our parish without any administrative or credit card fees. So, 100% of your gift comes to us, designated as your Christmas gift to the parish. Go to www.dbqarch.org/parishChristmas to make a one-time gift. The site will remain open through Epiphany, January 3, 2021. Thank you for considering a Christmas gift to our parish this year. If you have any questions, please contact Kerri Takes at the Pastorate Office.

Make a difference. “Every dollar our expenses,” says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priest served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps these communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

Remember to use Scrip for your holiday shopping!



St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate Advent Reconciliation 2020

St. Matthias - Tuesday, December 15, 7:00pm-8:00pm
Sacred Heart - Wednesday, December 16, 5:30pm-6:30pm
St. Patrick - Thursday, December 17, 5:30pm-6:30pm
St. Matthias - Saturday, December 19, after 5:30pm Mass
St. Matthias - Sun, Dec 20, after 8:00am & 10:00am Mass
St. Matthias - Wednesday, December 23, 5:30pm-6:30pm

St. Thomas Aquinas Christmas Masses

December 24, 2020

3:00pm	St. Patrick
4:30pm	St. Matthias
5:00pm	Sacred Heart
6:30pm	St. Matthias
9:00pm	St. Matthias

December 25, 2020

8:00am	St. Matthias
9:30am	St. Peter
11:00am	St. Matthias

- If there is a 2 Hour Delay or cancellation at Western Dubuque Schools – there will be NO morning 7:00am Mass.
- If there is a public funeral on a weekday Mass, there will be NO 7:00am Mass that day.
- If there is a private funeral on a weekday Mass, there WILL be a 7:00am Mass.

Here is a thank you that we have received from the Catholic Charities for our donation to the Derecho Fund:

Dear friends at St. Thomas Aquinas,

Thank you so much for your most generous donation to the derecho relief fund.

Thanks to the support of hundreds of donors, we have been able to help over 5,000 families who were impacted by the derecho in 9 counties. In the Archdiocese of Dubuque. In addition, we distributed over 450,000 lbs. of fresh produce, meat and dairy products to families in Cedar Rapids.

We could not have assisted this many people with out partners, such as you. Our support to families impacted by the derecho will continue for several months, as long as there are still unmet needs.

Thank you so much for your support and generosity!

With gratitude, Tracy Morrison

The Archdiocese wants us to remind you that all 2020 budget donations will have to be in by noon on December 31, 2020.

Any donations or mail received after noon on December 31, 2020 will be posted for the 2021 even if the donation is postmarked prior to December 31st. We encourage your generosity but we also have to follow IRS rules.

All Parish Cemetery Winter Reminder: The Cemetery Board of Directors from each of the parishes remind all to please remove any memorial items from the cemeteries that will not tolerate the winds and snow. The Cemeteries are not responsible for remaining items.

The St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate Social Justice Committee is once again hosting a **Pop-Up Food Pantry** on Saturday mornings from **10:00am- 12:00 Noon** in the St. Thomas Aquinas Pastorate Office Basement at 408 3rd Ave NW, Cascade.

Caring For Your Marriage- “He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the lowly, to heal the brokenhearted.” (Is 61:1) Gaudate Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, reminds us of God’s gift of joy (“gaudium” in Latin) no matter what trials we are experiencing in our family.

Sacred Heart, Fillmore

Sacred Heart Generosity: Dec. 5-6, 2020: Budget: \$1,370.00; Auction: \$1,275.00; Total: \$2,645.00

Liturgical Participation-Saturday, December 24, 2020 5:00pm

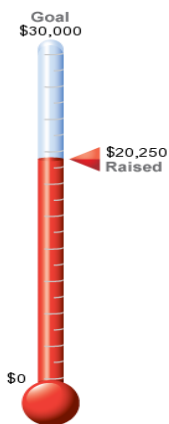
Commentator/Lector: Carolyn Turnis; *Eucharistic Ministers:*

Bridget Rea, Kathy Staner, Joan Turnis

Church & Hall Cleaning December 2020:

Chuck & Amy Noonan, Nic & Cody Noonan, Morgan & Laura Ryan, Chad & Keeley Curoe, Martin Stoffel

Sacred Heart Auction Fundraising Goal



By December 31, 2020:

\$30,000

Amount Contributed as of December 6, 2020:

\$20,250

Amount still needed:

\$9,750

We are at 68% of our go

St. Patrick, Garryowen

St. Patrick Generosity: Dec. 5-6, 2020: Budget: \$1,821.00; Offertory: \$65.00; Christmas: \$340.00; Votive Candles: \$92.72; Total: \$2,318.72

Liturgical Participation – Thursday, Dec. 24-3:00pm

Commentator/Lector: Mike Molony; *Eucharistic Ministers:* Deb Redmond, Diane Vaske, Janet Felton; *Ushers:* Denny Brackemyer, Bob Noonan

Liturgical Participation – Saturday, Dec. 26-4:00pm

Commentator/Lector: Wanda Loewen;

Ushers: Rich Molony, Mark Redmond

Weekend Money Counters: December 2020

Cathy Rubel & Adam Rollinger

Church & Hall Cleaning (Dec. 2020):

Chuck & Mary Shanahan, Lois Lynch, Don & Joan Meloy

St. Peter, Temple Hill

St. Peter Generosity: Dec. 5-6, 2020: Budget: \$55.00; Thanksgiving: \$300.00; Christmas: \$350.00; Holy Days: \$10.00; Grain Bank: \$3,250.78; Total: \$3,965.78

Liturgical Participation: (December 19, 2020 - 4:00 PM)

Lector/Commentator: Joe Trumm

Eucharistic Minister: Marie Knepper

Usher: Jason & Lisa Kurt; Ralph & Janice Trumm

Liturgical Participation: (Holy Christmas Day) - (December 25, 2020 - 9:30 AM)

Lector/Commentator: Marci Roe

Eucharistic Minister: Karen Knepper

Usher: Joe & David Trumm; Kevin Schockemoehl

Church Cleaning: Joe & Sara Trumm (leader), Jordan &

Robert Trumm, Kevin & Janet Schockemoehl, Eric &

Stacie Schockemoehl, Ryan & Shelly Schockemoehl,

Renee Coyle, John & Evelyn Noel (before December 19)

Our next weekend Mass at St. Peter's is Saturday,

December 19, 2020 at 4:00 PM.

Rosary & Adoration at St. Peter's - Wed, Dec 16 at 7 PM.

Mass Reservations: Please let Julie know if you are planning

to attend the 9:30 AM Mass at St. Peter's on Christmas

Day. With limited seating due to COVID, we want to make

sure that there will be a spot for you. Thanks!

St. Matthias, Cascade

St. Matthias Generosity: Dec. 5-6 – Budget:

\$4,587.00; Offertory: \$419.00; Thanksgiving: \$1,015.00;

Christmas: \$475.00; Holy Days: \$27.00; Grain Bank:

\$7,385.92; Total: \$13,908.92

Liturgical Participation: (Weekdays Dec.- 14-18): Jane Strang

Saturday – Dec. 19, 5:30pm-

Lector/Commentator/Eucharistic Minister: Nancy Strang

Ushers: Fred Rogers, Kerri Takes

Sunday – Dec. 20, 8:00am

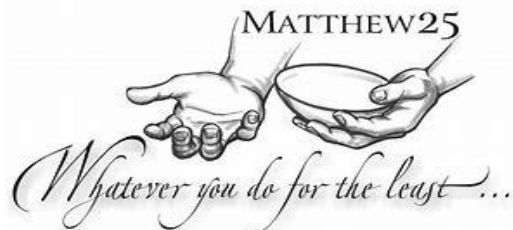
Lector/Commentator/Eucharistic Minister: Jean Simon

Ushers: Mike & Monica McDermott

Sunday – Dec. 20, 10:00am

Lector/Commentator/Eucharistic Minister: Debbie Wessels

Ushers: Kathy Beck, Shellie Schlemme



We are excited to introduce a new club for our Aquin Middle School students called Matthew 25. Matthew 25 students will be involved in various activities throughout the school year. Students will be collaborating with the parish Social Justice committee. Food drives, serving a meal at a soup kitchen or helping with the parish Christmas baskets are just a few of the activities we have planned for the students.

Matthew 25's mission will embrace Catholic social justice teachings, while allowing our students to collaborate with our parish and community. They will be living out the message of Matthew 25: "For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you took Me in. I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you visited Me."