

2020 Easter Newsletter

St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish



Fr. Jason Sharbaugh

Pastor



Easter is the season of hope and renewal. We will celebrate His Resurrection and what that means for us as Catholics. During this season of COVID-19, we aren't able to celebrate His Resurrection in our normal traditions, but we will still celebrate. There is still hope and goodness.

Though it may be hard to see, He knows the outcome of the current events. As we reflect on Jesus' life, we recall the time He spent in the desert. At the end of His testing, "The devil left Him, and behold angels came and were ministering to Him" (Matthew 4:11). Our desert, the COVID-19 pandemic, and our experience of Lent this year has been anything but the expected. As we move through the Easter season we will be together in spirit and we know that God has a plan and fights for us each day; and He will not give us more than we are able to handle.

As we move from spring, toward

summer, St. Thomas is adapting to an online presence so that we can minister to you and the students that are no longer on campus. Our hope is to have normal programming by this fall, but only God can determine this change.

Your generous support would be greatly welcomed at this time to help sustain St. Thomas and enable us to continue ministering to our parishioners and those who need a "home away from home". During this time of social distancing, we know God has amazing things in store for us. "Every branch that does bear fruit He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful" (John 15:2). We are given - if we accept it- a time of reliance on the Lord and purification of our motives and plans. While we are physically distant, we nevertheless are in communion through our prayer, our interaction through social media, and the solidarity we have with one another. There is renewal in this season and, if we stay on the path laid out before us, we will triumph just as Jesus triumphed in the desert.

Blessings this Easter season!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jason Sharbaugh". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Let's call those (Catholic) Hogs! 2020 kicked off as a year of excitement and much hope for our students and community at St. Thomas. Over Christmas break, some members of our Peer Ministry Team took part in a Student Leadership Summit. They returned "on fire" for their faith and ready to hit the semester running. Student leaders prepared all semester for our spring Awakening Retreat that took place March 6-8. The retreat allowed students to grow in their personal relationship with Christ and one another. Unfortunately, the spread of COVID-19 put a quick and unexpected halt to semester plans. As of March 16, the University of Arkansas moved all operations online.

Students are currently experiencing many difficult emotions, but the community remains strong. The Men's bible study, Greek Bible

study, and Seton's bible study have now gone virtual and continue to meet weekly.

This is an unprecedented time for all and what lies ahead is still unknown. What is known is the love Christ has for all of us. We're all in this together. We continue to thank our donors for the outpouring of support. Thank you for thinking of St. Thomas and keeping this wonderful community in your prayers during this difficult time. We will get through this. Love one another, serve one another, and live the Faith.

God Bless,

Adam Koehler & Juliane Pierini
Campus Ministers

2021 Catholic Campus Ministry Programming Fund



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"Therefore encourage one another & build one another up, just as you are doing" 1 Thessalonians 5:11

2019-2020

