Secretarial Office Hours
Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Weekend Mass Schedule
Saturday 8 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Daily Rosary
Before 8:00 a.m. Mass

Baptism
Second Sunday of the month, preparation classes required.
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 8:30-9 a.m. & 3:30-4:15 p.m. or by appointment
Marriage
Please call church office 6 months in advance

Mass in Spanish at St. Mary’s 1 p.m. Sunday
Deadline for Bulletin Blurbs
Printed blurb to the office by noon on Tuesday (holiday dates may be earlier, depending when it falls in the week)

Jesus said to his parents,
“Why were you looking for me?
Did you not know that I
must be in my Father’s house?”
Luke 2:49
MY SON, SAVIOR OF THE WORLD. Daily, Jesus our loving Lord & Savior is with us during Eucharistic Adoration in our Chapel. Adoration begins at 9 a.m. daily & the last hour is 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. Come for a scheduled hour with Jesus each week or visit at any time. Leave our busy world & enjoy an hour with peace & quiet. Call Connie, 815-232-3209 or Cammie, 815-235-7604 for information & the security code. Adorers are needed for the following hours: Mon. 4 p.m.; Fri. 6 p.m., Sat. 12 noon & 3 p.m. & Sun. 2 p.m. & 8 p.m.

HOLY FAMILY LIGHTS are burning in loving memory of Eric Challenger.

THE ROSES ON THE ALTAR LAST WEEKEND were in celebration of the births of: Gabriel John, grandson of Terry & Connie Gogel of our parish. James Michael III, grandson of Jim & Shannon Hauser & great-grandson of Dick & Mary Hauser of our parish.

THE NEXT BAPTISM CLASS will be Sun., Feb. 3, 2019 from 1-3 p.m. If it's been more than 3 years since you last attended a Baptism class, you are required to attend one to have your child(ren) baptized. (Classes are offered every other month and it is recommended the class be taken before the child is born.) Parents wishing to have their child(ren) baptized should call the church office. The next celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism (Baptisms are monthly) will be Sun., Jan. 12. Deacon Steve Pospischil will be the celebrant.

Doctors Without Borders medical care givers risk their lives daily around the world and in Yemen, where they will use our 6.5% tithe. Their hospital in Abs city is currently receiving war-wounded patients every day. Between August and September, they treated 362 injured people, more than 40 percent of the total number of wounded they treated in 2018. Many are civilians who have been caught in the crossfire of airstrikes and missiles. Children are most affected by the healthcare crisis there, with emotional and physical scars they will carry for the rest of their lives, if they survive the war, disease and famine that they face daily. Pray for the innocent people suffering in Yemen. Thank you!
MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR: A Holy Family

When T.V. or media attempt to convey a family, it is either too virtuous and adoring, or so dysfunctional that one imagines a visit from DCF as the next episode. In reality families are where relationships are developed and evolve from, and where the virtues which we value are conveyed. Throughout the ages the family is the place where we pass on our history, values, and our mores. We are always looking after the next generation which will follow us.

It is very fitting that the holiness of the family also be celebrated at this time. For it is only by the ordinariness of being born, nurtured and taught, so frail and dependent upon those who have welcomed us into their lives, that we ever grow in strength and grace. God enters these intimacies, too, just as surely as God wants entry into all of human history. And so the wisdom of the father and the authority of the mother and reverence of the child reveal the splendor. Sometimes the wise old ones in our midst, like Simeon, help us name the glory. Other times, it is the prophetic ancient, like Anna, who sees the truth of our ordinary radiance.

The lost Jesus in the temple, and the response of Mary and Joseph, bespeak the numerous crisis and moments of chaos, we all experience in our family life. The scenario of Mary, Joseph and Jesus reminds us though that we have a connection to the holiness of God in heaven. "Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?" The reality is that we all must be in the Father’s house.

Family life is messy life. Yet, we must be prophetic in our families. We cannot pretend to be the ‘Brady Bunch.’ In the chaos which is our families, we seek Jesus, and discover him in the temple.

CATECHIST NEEDED:
Our Faith Formation class (grade 3/4) needs a volunteer to teach religious education. If you are interested, please contact Julie Dorsey or Marie Dinneen (815-232-3225). Team teaching is an option! The Holy Spirit is calling!

FIRST FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 - FIRST SATURDAY, JANUARY 5. The Litany of the Sacred Heart is prayed after the 8 a.m. Mass on each First Friday. At Fatima, Our Lady requested five consecutive First Saturday Devotions in honor of her Immaculate Heart. Devotions consist of Confession, Holy Communion, five decades of the Rosary, 15 minutes of meditation on the Rosary. First Saturday Mass is in the Chapel at 8 a.m.

AQUIN IS CELEBRATING THEIR 35th year of Adesse--and by the end of 2019, Aquin will have sent out over $400,000 in winnings. So how do you get a ticket for this lottery that has better odds of winning than any Illinois Lotto ticket? It’s very easy. Tickets are available at either Aquin campus office or from any Aquin family!

They have 2 levels of 'giving' for a ticket: $25 per ticket or $100 for 5 tickets. And they have 3 levels of 'winning': $25 CASH: Monday-Friday winners, $50 CASH: Saturday and Sunday winners, $250 CASH: 7 Holiday Winners (New Year’s Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day). Think of it as buying 365 lottery tickets for just $20!

They will draw a name each day in 2019. Each time you win, your check will come to you in the mail and your winning ticket will be put back in the barrel to be pulled again--January 1 through December 31--no matter how often your name is drawn as a winner. Tickets are available from any Aquin family or at either of the campus offices at: St. Joseph Campus 202 West Pleasant, or Junior-Senior High at 1419 South Galena or from the St. Thomas Aquinas office. Or call them at 815-235-3154 x 224. Adesse is Latin for 'support'. They thank you for your support--and can’t wait to send you your daily prizes!
ST. THOMAS AQUINAS CHURCH
1400 KIWANIS DR.  FREEPORT, IL   61032
1-815-232-3225  FAX 815-232-3231
E-MAIL:  STA@STTHOMASFREEPORT.ORG
WEBSITE:  STTHOMASFREEPORT.ORG

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: St. Thomas Aquinas Parish is a faith community under the guidance of the Holy Spirit dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus through Word, Sacrament and Service both to its parishioners and the broader community through worship, prayer and evangelization.

Pastor
Fr. Kenneth Anderson   1-815-232-3225

DEACONS
Don Brunette    1-815-232-4026
Dick Dinneen    1-815-232-4873
Vince Drees    1-815-233-1097
Kim Hemesath    1-815-541-6760
Steve Pospischil    1-815-233-2422

SECRETARY
Sandy Roser    1-815-232-3225

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATORS
Marie Dinneen    1-815-232-4873
Julie Dorsey    1-815-235-5395

YOUTH MINISTRY
Gabby Williams    1-815-209-8450

BUSINESS MANAGER/WEBSITE COORDINATOR
Karen Sopcic    1-815-232-3225

PARISH HALL COORDINATOR
Jan Bald    1-815-232-3225

MUSIC COORDINATOR
Laura Diemer    1-815-541-2596

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES COORDINATOR
Jan Moss    1-815-232-2259

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
Deacon Steve Pospischil    1-815-233-2422

LECTORS
Deacon Steve Pospischil    1-815-233-2422

USHERS
4:30 pm Carolyn Weaver    1-815-563-4469
8:00 am Tom Kornfeind    1-815-233-4519
10:30 am Roland Caruso    1-815-291-4253

MASS SERVERS
Diane Fiedler    1-815-369-4158

PARISH PRAYER TREE
Irene Manson    1-815-233-4344
Beth Bowen    1-815-233-0281
Barb Hemesath    1-815-541-6761

ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month
Jeremy Grayewski    1-815-563-4222

EUCHARISTICADORATION
Connie Eilers    1-815-232-3209

AQUIN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Aquin Principal: Rosemarie Brubaker    1-815-235-3154
Elementary Principal: Jeremy Keesee    1-815-232-6416
School Board Rep:
School Board Rep: Greg Guilliams    1-815-291-5839

PASTORAL COUNCIL
Dan Moeller    1-815-235-9428
Barb Hemesath    1-815-541-6761
Deacon Kim Hemesath    1-815-541-6760
Dick Drogosz    1-815-233-0798
Deacon Steve Pospischil    1-815-233-2422
Cathy Finch    1-815-233-2255

FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION
SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE
STEWARDSHIP & EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE

FINANCE COUNCIL
Jim Brannick    1-815-232-6675

SERVANTS OF MARY
Barb Hemesath    1-815-541-6761
As we approach the new year, many of us are beginning to think about resolutions. Some of us want to purchase new gym passes and lose twenty pounds, while others are planning on learning a new language. The question for you is: what is your plan for 2019? What resolutions are you going to make?

Have you ever asked yourself why we make resolutions at all? Well, the reason is because we all desire to be the best possible versions of ourselves! We are in a constant state of wanting to become the people God created us to be. So this, above all, should be your primary goal this new year: to become a better version of yourself (aka, the Saint God knows you can and should be!).

So, how are we going to make this happen? By simply doing three things this year:

1. Never miss Sunday Mass
2. Go to Confession once a month
3. And pray daily for at least 20 minutes

If you resolve to undertake this plan in the coming new year, you will most definitely wake up in 365 days as a new creation in Christ!
FAMILIES CELEBRATED THE UPCOMING BIRTH OF OUR LORD at our Family Faith Morning Christmas Party on Sun., Dec. 16. In thanks for the prayers and support of the St Thomas Aquinas parishioners, the families put together Christmas gift bags and gave them out after Mass with “Merry Christmas” cheer! Special thanks to Joanie Williams and her daughters Gabby, Alex and Kim for providing baked goods and hot cocoa for the families.
If you own a business or know of a local business that might like to support your local Catholic parish by advertising in its parish bulletin, please contact J.S. Paluch. Grow your business by advertising in the church bulletin and create strong connections with your target audience. Benefits include:

GREAT COVERAGE - 97% of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.

GREAT VALUE - 70% of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.

GREAT LOYALTY - 41% of households do business with a company specifically because they are advertising in the church bulletin.

GREAT PRODUCT - 62% of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.

WHY ADVERTISE IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH BULLETIN?

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