ST. Thomas aquinas priest and doctor of the church



- ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 808 NW Pearl St., ATLANTA, ILLINOIS
- ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 213 S. Bogardus St., ELKHART, ILLINOIS
- ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH, 321 S. Lafayette St., MT. PULASKI, ILLINOIS

MASSES FOR THIS WEEK

Saturday, January 23-St. Vincent & St. Marianne Cope

4:00 pm Jim Ryan by the Gober Family (<u>Holy Family</u>)

[with Drive-Thru Communion from 4:45-5 pm]

Sunday, January 24-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Rev. Robert O'Connor by the Estate (<u>St. Patrick's</u>) 8:30 am Tom & Scott Eimer by the Tierneys (St. Mary's)

10:00 am George "Bud" Dehner by the Tiffany Family (Holy Family)

[with Drive-Thru Communion from 10:45-11 am]

10:00 am Rosemary Trauner by James & Maureen Trauner (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Monday, January 25-The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

8:00 am Betty Lou Henss by Lou Ann Mack (<u>Holy Family</u>)

Tuesday, January 26-St. Timothy & St. Titus

8:00 am Toby & Polly Prange by Gary & Cindy Minder (Holy Family)

Wednesday, January 27-Št. Angela Merici

8:30 am All Souls (Holy Family)

Thursday, January 28-St. Thomas Aquinas

8:00 am Scott Eimer by Cathy Loveall (Holy Family)

12 Noon Rosary (Holy Family)

Friday, January 29

8:00 am Sarajane "Sallie" Marcotte by Jim & Suzanne Benner (Holy Family)

Saturday, January 30

4:00 pm Robert & Mary Ellen Thornton by Family (Holy Family)

[with Drive-Thru Communion from 4:45-5 pm]

Sunday, January 31-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 am Jude A. Bennett by Steve & Chris Schilling (St. Patrick's) 8:30 am Jim P. & Chuck Bode by Anna & Family (St. Mary's)

10:00 am Joseph "Joe" Fitzpatrick by the Vaini & French Family (Holy Family)

[with Drive-Thru Communion from 10:45-11 am]

10:00 am Special Intention by Carl & Rita Faith (St. Thomas Aquinas)

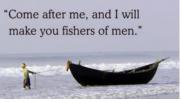
- ⇒ Eucharistic Adoration is held on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 2-3 pm with Divine Mercy Chaplet, at 3 pm, at Holy Family Church.
- ⇒ **Reconciliation** at <u>Holy Family Church</u>, Lincoln; Tuesday at 7:30 am and Saturday at 2:45 pm

Reconciliation at St. Patrick's Church, Elkhart; prior to Sunday Mass.

Reconciliation at St. Mary's Church, Atlanta; prior to Sunday Mass.

Reconciliation at St. Thomas Aguinas Church, Mt. Pulaski; prior to Sunday Mass.

Based on the availability of clergy, this schedule is subject to change. Please check the parish calendar on the website for any changes or additions.



Third Sunday In Ordinary Time Cycle B

There is a certain urgency in today's Gospel as Jesus calls His first disciples—Andrew and Simon, James and John. Each one follows Jesus immediately, unhesitatingly abandoning nets and boats and father and fellowworkers. To what is Jesus calling me—at this moment, in these circumstances? What will I need to abandon in order to follow Him?



EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES



At every Catholic Mass, following the command of <u>Jesus</u> himself, the celebrant raises the host and says, "Take this, all of you, and eat it: This is my body, which will be given up for you." Then he lifts the cup and says, "Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me." The doctrine of <u>transubstantiation</u>, the teaching that bread and wine are converted into the actual flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. When Christ first told his followers of it, many rejected him. But Jesus did not clarify his statement or correct their misunderstanding. He simply repeated his command to the disciples at the Last Supper. Throughout history, though, many people have reported miracles that brought them to the truth. The Church has recognized over one hundred Eucharistic Miracles. From now thru Lent, there are several posters on display on the wall in the Holy Family Church new addition hallway for viewing. These posters describe many Miracles of the Eucharist. There is a table near these posters that will have small packets containing information on the displayed posters for parishioners to take home. A suggested \$5 donation per packet would help cover the cost of this display. There will be a smaller version of a few posters at St. Mary's, St. Patrick's and St. Thomas Aquinas Churches, along with a table with the small packets. A suggested \$5 donation per packet would help cover the cost of this display.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Monday, January 25 Acts 22:3-16 <u>or</u> Acts 9:1-22 / Psalm 117:1-2 / Mark 16:15-18

Tuesday, January 26

2 Timothy 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5 / Psalm 96:1-3,7-8,10 / Mark 3:31-35

Wednesday, January 27

Hebrews 10:11-18 / Psalm 110:1-4 / Mark 4:1-20

Thursday, January 28

Hebrews 10:19-25 / Psalm 24:1-6 / Mark 4:21-25

Friday, January 29

Hebrews 10:32-39 / Psalm 37:3-6,23-24,39-40 / Mark 4:26-34

Saturday, January 30

Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19 / Luke 1:69-75 / Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, January 31Deuteronomy 18:15-20 / Psalm 95:1-2,6-9 / 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 / Mark 1:21-28



I can't find the words to adequately thank you for your response to our appeal for help at our Logan County Catholic Community Food Pantry. In terms of both dollars and food product, you came through, and we can continue to put food

on the table of neighbors who are struggling for the foreseeable future. I'm sure you realize their problems continue, and I hope you will continue to support us as best you can. You've filled the tremendous hole caused by the shock of COVID, allowing us to continue to serve quality and nutritious food. Thank you! Carolyn Webster

ST. MARY'S, ATLANTA

- ~Ministry Schedule for Sunday, January 31: Reader-Laura O'Donnell; Servers-Paige Johnson & Luke Prestegaard
- ~Valentine Care Packages: Atlanta Christian Church will soon be packing and mailing Valentine Care packages to our current military families. If you have a family member you'd like to receive a package, please call/text Jennifer Craig at (217) 871-9820 with your family member's name and address. This information is due by Sunday, January 31.

Packing and mailing will take place at the beginning of February. A special thank you to the Atlanta American Legion Post who will, once again, pay the postage for any overseas military packages. A second collection will be taken up this Sunday (January 24) to help pay for the goodies for the packages.

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS. MT. PULASKI

~Next Church Cleaning: St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners will clean the church on February 3 (the first Wednesday of each month) at 4 pm. Volunteers are asked to bring cleaning supplies. Please consider sharing your time to help keep our church clean for worship.

Do Not Conform Yourself to this Age

St. Paul tells us, "Do not conform yourself to this age but ...discern...what is good and pleasing..."

Since Roe v. Wade, around 63 million innocent children have lost their God-given right to live. An entire class of persons, children in the womb, have been relegated to the status of "chattel", personal property, who can be disposed of by those more powerful than they.

They have no power to resist. They are subject to abuse and destruction by those with more power, namely the power of the State. They have no voice that can be heard except our own.

Without doubt, innocent children pre-eminent moral

It is for this must "not grave injustice. As we must instead of truth and is good and We must



the killing of in the womb is the evil of our age. reason that we conform" to this St Paul tells us. stand on the side justice and "what pleasing to God". recognize what

both medical science and natural justice tell us: children in the womb are human persons with an inalienable right to

Undoubtedly, the most important human rights issue of our age is to protect our "first neighbors" ----children in the womb. The womb is the "first home" of the whole human race and standing up for them is a matter of solidarity with our neighbor and love for the poor. We should not stand by while thousands of children every day are evicted and killed!

Our call (as St Paul reminds us) is to replace the current culture of death with a new culture of life and a civilization of love. Pro-Life Articles



Request prayers by sending an email to lcc4- prayerchain@googlegroups.com. If you would like to subscribe to the prayer chain, follow the "Join Prayer Chain" link located on www.logancountycatholic.org.

When your web browser opens click on "Subscribe to this group" option, then follow the instructions in the pop-up box. You should receive an email within 48 hours that indicates you have been accepted as a member of the prayer chain.

> The Most Rev. Daniel R. Jenky, CSC and Bishop Louis Tylka cordially invite all married couples to celebrate the gift of Christian Marriage!

Diocesan Marriage Mass and Concert Saturday, February 13, 2021

St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral 607 NE Madison Avenue, Peoria, Illinois Concert beginning at 3:30 pm with Holy Mass & Renewal of Wedding Vows at 4:00 pm



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Those who will be celebrating a 25th or 50th Wedding Anniversary during this 2021 year, please contact the Parish Office. Your information will be published in the Sunday bulletin, if you wish, but will also be sent to the Peoria Diocese as they request this information to send invitations to a special Mass. held vearly, at the Cathedral in Peoria.



Congratulations to . . .

the Carroll Catholic School December/January Students of the Month(s): Gavin Vaini (3rd Grade), Giada Vaini (1st Grade), Ella Prather (6th Grade), and Parker Graue (8th Grade)! These students were chosen by their teachers for doing exceptional work during the past two months of remote learning. Keep up the great work!



WHO RECEIVES & WHO ADMINISTERS THIS SACRAMENT?

The Anointing of the Sick "is not only a sacrament for those who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him/her to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived." If a sick person who received this anointing recovers his health, he can in the case of another grave illness receive this sacrament again. If during the same illness the person's condition becomes more serious, the Anointing the sick sacrament may be repeated. It is fitting to receive the Anointing of the Sick just prior to a serious operation. The same holds for the elderly whose frailty becomes more pronounced.

Only priests (bishops and presbyters) are ministers of the Anointing of the Sick. (The above information was taken from https:// www.vatican.va/archive/ccc css/archive/catechism/p2s2c2a5.htm)

Anyone who needs Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Office (217) 732-4019.

Please Pray for the Sick by remembering the following in your prayers:

Anne Lowry, Anna Beckers, Steve Coogan, Mike Lowry, Paul Lowry, Matthew Lowry, Elijah Cox, Guinevere Decker, Joan Lewis, Boone O'Donoghue, Ruth Young, Rodney Alberts, Jill Alberts, Linda Wright, Steve Schmidt,



Ryan Butler, Donna Burr, Paula Rutherford, James Thean, Gavin Fox, Mark VanRheeden, Rita Johnson, Adelyn Jones, McKayla Nye, Judy Morrow, Gavin Shuler, Phillip Brown, Christina Clements, Mike Kavanaugh, E. J. Miley, Rosie Huber, Linda H., Mark L., Kay Rosner, Rita Faith, Hank Barr, Deb Jordan, Dwayne Knap, Jo Ellen Warren, Esme Avart, Rita Scanavino, Amy Talmage, Marge Steinkamp, Thomas Siegel, Asher Phillips, Donald Langhart, Kristin Wright, Melinda Spangler, Phil Dehner, Alexa Cunningham, Mary Scanavino, Mary Masterson, Amanda Cruz, Marcia Bidwell, Sandra Buttell, Anita Tibbs, Debi Hardin, Ann LaMothe, Crystal Tibbs, Becky Maestas, Teresa Tripplett, Curt C., Eddie Pharis, Shirley Davis, Mike Young, Theresa Young, Dennis O'Donoghue, Dan Dankosky, Amanda Clark, John Brennan, Brenda Dutcher, Tinley Rubenacker and all the members of the armed forces of our country. If you would like to add a name to the list, call the Parish Office at (217) 732-4019 Ext. 2202 or email mklohrenz@logancountycatholic.org

Week of January 24

The red Altar Sanctuary Candle at ... Holy Family Church is lit this week

In Thanksgiving.

The red Altar Sanctuary Candle at . . . St. Patrick's Church is lit this week

In Thanksgiving for Our Son's Addiction Recovery.

The blue candle at the Mary Queen of Peace Statue near the altar at . . . Holy Family Church is lit this week In Memory of Jaime Wessbecher requested by Mom & Dad.

The blue candle at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Statue near votive candles at . . . Holy

> Family Church is lit this week for Special Intentions.



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Holy Family: Bob Barger, Peggy Morrow, Jim Wessbecher
St. Mary's: Joe Bell, Jan Bicknell, Zachary Craig
St. Patrick's: Judy Horcharik, Curt Hudson, Blane Olson
St. Thomas Aquinas: Karen Edgecombe, Kathy Miller

January 2/3, 2020 Weekly Offering Versus Budget

Parish	Budget Requirement	Weekly Offering	Weekly Online Giving	Weekly Budget Surplus/ (Shortfall)	Year to Date Budget Surplus/ (Shortfall)		
Holy Family	\$7,020.00	\$6,568.00	\$0.00	(\$592.00)	(\$4,048.00)		
St. Mary's	\$1,077.00	\$177.00	\$0.00	(\$903.00)	(\$1,045.00)		
St. Patrick's	\$1,340.00	\$218.00	\$0.00	(\$1,142.00)	(\$3,659.00)		
St. Thomas Aquinas	\$952.00	\$176.00	\$0.00	<u>(\$794.00)</u>	(\$5,401.00)		

January 9/10, 2020 Weekly Offering Versus Budget

Parish	Budget Requirement	Weekly Offering	Weekly Online Giving	Weekly Budget Surplus/ (Shortfall)	Year to Date Budget Surplus/ (Shortfall)		
Holy Family	\$7,020.00	\$11,849.00	\$305.00	<u>\$4,994.00</u>	\$946.00		
St. Mary's	\$1,077.00	\$1,646.00	\$460.00	\$1,026.00	(\$19.00)		
St. Patrick's	\$1,340.00	\$960.00	\$240.00	(\$160.00)	(\$3,819.00)		
St. Thomas Aquinas	\$952.00	\$1,079.00	\$55.00	<u>\$164.00</u>	(\$5,237.00)		

Sunday Offering (does not include Capital Campaign Donations, Utilities, ADA, Holy Day of Obligation Collections, Easter, Food Pantry, **Building Fund and Diocesan Collections) Budget period: July 1, 2020 — June 30, 2021**

> Parish Office, 316 South Logan Street, Lincoln, IL 62656 - (217) 732-4019 www.logancountyCatholic.org Rev. Jeffrey G. Laible, Pastor Rev. Fulgens Marcel Rutatekururwa, Parochial Vicar

> > **Deacon Wendell Lowry** Sister Mary Lou Owens O.P.,

Spiritual Life Coordinator

Kathy Buse, Religious Education Coordinator Pam Coogan, Assistant Business Manager Alicia Baker & Mary Kay Lohrenz, Secretaries

Sister Lori Kirchman O.P., Director of Music Carroll Catholic School (217) 732-7518 David Welch, Principal ~ Jennifer Craig, Secretary Holy Cross & St. Mary Cemeteries (217) 871-0266 Kenneth "Scott" Jones, Sexton



(continued from page on right)

Judas, where he remained three days blind, and without eating or drinking. He doubtless spent his time in great bitterness of soul, not yet knowing what God required of him. With what anguish he bewailed his past blindness and false zeal against the church, we may conjecture both from his taking no nourishment during those three days, and from the manner in which he ever after remembered and spoke of his having been a blasphemer and a persecutor. Though the entire reformation of his heart was not gradual, as in ordinary conversions, but miraculous in the order of grace, and perfect in a moment; yet a time of probation and a severe interior trial (for such we cannot doubt but he went through on this occasion) was necessary to crucify the old man and all other earthly sentiments in his heart, and to prepare it to receive the extraordinary graces which God designed him. There was a Christian of distinction in Damascus, much respected by the Jews for his irreproachable life and great virtue; his name was Ananias. Christ appeared to this holy disciple, and commanded him to go to Saul, who was then in the house of Judas at prayer: Ananias trembled at the name of Saul, being no stranger to the mischief he had done in Jerusalem, or to the errand on which he was set out to Damascus. But our Redeemer overruled his fears, and charged him a second time to go to him, saying: <Go, for he is a vessel of election to carry my name before Gentiles and kings, and the children of Israel: and I will show him how much he has to suffer for my name. > For tribulation is the test and portion of all the true servants of Christ. Saul in the mean time saw in a vision a man entering, and laying his hands upon him, to restore his sight. Ananias, obeying the divine order, arose, went to Saul, and laying his hands upon him, said: <Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to thee on thy journey, hath sent me that thou mayest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. > Immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he recovered his eyesight. Ananias added: <The God of our fathers hath chosen thee that thou shouldst know his will and see the just one, and shouldst hear the voice from his mouth: and thou shalt be his witness unto all men to publish what thou hast seen and heard. Arise, therefore, be baptized and washed from thy sins, invoking the name of the Lord. > Saul then arose, was baptized, and took some refreshment. He stayed some few days with the disciples at Damascus, and began immediately to preach in the synagogues, that Jesus was the Son of God, to the great astonishment of all that heard him, who said: <ls not this he who persecuted at Jerusalem those who invoked the name of Jesus, and who is come hither to carry them away prisoners>? Thus a blasphemer and a persecutor was made an apostle, and chosen to be one of the principal instruments of God in the conversion of the world.

St. Paul never recalled to mind this his wonderful conversion, without raptures of gratitude and praise to the divine mercy. The church, in thanksgiving to God for such a miracle of his grace, from which it has derived such great blessings, and to commemorate so miraculous an instance of his almighty power, and to propose to penitents a perfect model of a true conversion has instituted this festival, which we find mentioned in several calendars and missals of the eighth and ninth centuries, and which pope Innocent III. commanded to be observed with great solemnity. It was for some time kept a holy day of obligation in most churches in the West; and we read it mentioned as such in England in the council of Oxford in 1222 in the reign of king Henry III.

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This great apostle was a Jew, of the tribe of Benjamin. At his circumcision, on the eighth day after his birth, he received the name of Saul. His father was by sect a Pharisee, and a denizen of Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia: which city had shown a particular regard for the cause of the Caesars; on which account Cassius deprived it of its privileges and lands; but Augustus when conqueror, made it ample amends by honoring it with many new privileges, and with the freedom of Rome, as we read in the two

Dions and Appian. Hence St. Paul, being born at Tarsus, was by privilege a Roman citizen, to which quality a great distinction and several exemptions were granted by the laws of the empire. His parents sent him young to Jerusalem, where he was educated and instructed in the strictest observance of the law of Moses, by Gamaliel, a learned and noble Jew, and probably a member of the Sanhedrin; and was a most scrupulous observer of it in every point. He appeals even to his enemies to bear evidence how conformable to it his life had been in every respect. He embraced the sect of the Pharisees, which was of all others the most severe, though by its pride the most opposite to the humility of the gospel. It was a rule among the Jews that all their children were to learn some trade with their studies, were it but to avoid idleness, and to exercise the body, as well as the mind, in something serious. It is therefore probable that Saul learned in his youth the trade which he exercised even after his apostleship, of making tents.

Saul, surpassing all his equals in zeal for the Jewish law and their traditions, which he thought the cause of God, became thereby a blasphemer, a persecutor, and the most outrageous enemy of Christ. He was one of those who combined to murder St. Stephen, and by keeping the garments of all who stoned that holy martyr, he is said by St. Austin to have stoned him by the hands of all the rest6 to whose prayers for his enemies he ascribes the conversion of St. Paul: "If Stephen," said he, "had not prayed, the church would never have had St. Paul."

After the martyrdom of the holy deacon, the priests and magistrates of the Jews raised a violent persecution against the church at Jerusalem, in which Saul signalized himself above others. By virtue of the power he had received from the high priest, he dragged the Christians out of their houses, loaded them with chains, and thrust them into prison. He procured them to be scourged in the synagogues, and endeavored by torments to compel them to blaspheme the name of Christ. And as our Savior had always been represented by the leading men of the Jews as a n enemy to their law, it was no wonder that this rigorous Pharisee fully persuaded himself that <he ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.> By the violences he committed, his name became everywhere a terror to the faithful. The persecutors not only raged against their persons, but also seized their estates and what they possessed in common, and left them in such extreme necessity, that the remotest churches afterwards thought it incumbent on them to join in charitable contributions to their relief. All this could not satisfy the fury of Saul; he breathed nothing but threats and the slaughter of the other disciples." Wherefore, in the fury of his zeal, he applied to the high priest and Sanhedrin for a commission to take up all Jews at Damascus who confessed Jesus Christ, and bring them bound to Jerusalem, that they might serve as public examples for the terror of others. But God was pleased to show forth in him his patience and mercy: and, moved by the prayers of St. Stephen and his other persecuted servants. for their enemies, changed him,, in the very heat of his fury, into a vessel of election, and made him a greater mall in his church by the grace of the apostleship, than St. Stephen had ever been, and a more illustrious instrument of his glory. He was almost at the end of his journey to Damascus, when, about noon, he and his company were ml a sudden surrounded by a great light from heaven, brighter than the sun. They all saw the light, and being struck with amazement, fell to the ground. Then Saul heard a voice, which to him was articulate and distinct; but not understood. though heard by the rest: <Saul, Saul, why cost thou persecute me>? Christ said not: Why cost thou persecute my disciples? but me: for it is he, their head, who is chiefly persecuted in his servants. Saul answered: <Who art thou, Lord>? Christ said: <Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutes. It is hard for thee to kick against the goad>:—" to contend with one so much mightier than thyself. By persecuting my church you make it flourish, and only prick and hurt yourself." This mild expostulation of our Redeemer, accompanied with a powerful interior grace, strongly affecting his soul, cured his pride. assuaged his rage, and wrought at once a total change in him. Wherefore, trembling and astonished, he cried out: <Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?? What to repair the past? What to promote your glory? I make a joyful oblation of myself to execute your will in every thing, and to suffer for your sake afflictions, disgraces, persecutions, torments, and every sort of death. The true convert expressed this, not in a bare form of words, nor with faint languid desires, nor with any exception lurking in the secret recesses of his heart; but with an entire sacrifice of himself, and au heroic victory over the world with its frowns and charms, over the devils with their snares and threats, and over himself and all inclinations of self-love; devoting himself totally to God. A perfect model of a true conversion, the greatest work of almighty grace! Christ ordered him to arise and proceed on his journey to the city, where he should be informed of what he expected from him. Christ would not instruct him immediately by himself, but St. Austin observes, sent him to the ministry which he had established in the church, to be directed in the way of salvation by those whom he had appointed for that purpose. He would not finish the conversion and instruction of this great apostle, whom he was pleased to call in so wonderful a manner, but by remitting him to the guidance of his ministers; showing us thereby that his holy providence has so ordered it, that all who desire to serve him, should seek his will by listening to those whom he has commanded us to hear, and whom he has sent in his own name and appointed to be our guides. So perfectly would he abolish in his servants all self-confidence and presumption, the source of error and illusion. The convert, rising from the ground, found that, though his eyes were open, he saw nothing. Providence sent this corporal blindness to be an emblem of the spiritual blindness in which he had lived, and to signify to him that he was henceforward to die to the world, and learn to apply his mind totally to the contemplation of heavenly things.. He was led by the hand into Damascus, whither Christ seemed to conduct him in triumph. He was lodged in the house of a Jew named (Continued on the left page in designated column.)

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