



Last week, I mentioned making Jesus the number one priority in your life. If you resolve to do this in the year ahead I promise your family will experience a year of peace and blessings.

A big thank you to everyone who has supported our parish in various ways throughout this year. More and more people are investing themselves in the future of our parish community. This is allowing us to address some projects that have been needed and plan for others. Most importantly, with parishioners more committed to growing spiritually, St. Thomas remains healthy and moving forward in a positive direction.

Mary is a great example for all of us. New Year's is a holy day of obligation, which honors and celebrates her "yes". She trusted God completely when the angel appeared to her. She never hesitated. Her faith in God allowed her to live a life of peace knowing that God oversees everything. In order for us to continue to know the joy of Christmas, and not experience a letdown afterwards, it is important that like Mary we continually ponder in our hearts the mystery of God's Love. In His Wisdom, the Heavenly Father bestowed the gift of "Mother of God" on a humble, young and likely poor Jewish girl. I hope you are enjoying our Christmas gift to you of Brant Pitre's recent book *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary: Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah*. I am still reading it myself and learning more about the Mother of God. May all of us be more like Mary in the year ahead. Let us walk in the ways of the Lord as the responsorial psalm reminds us today and entrust ourselves, through Mary's intercession, into the loving hands of God.

Fr. Jason

**"A good deed is never lost;
he who sows courtesy
reaps friendship,
and he who plants kindness
gathers love."**

† St. Basil the Great



"Seek the Face of Christ" Pilgrimage

Eucharistic Miracles in Italy ----Sept. 27- Oct. 8

Father Louis Fowoyo will lead a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Shrine of Padre Pio, Loreto and many Eucharistic miracles including Lanciano, Siena and others. Daily Mass. Live spiritual drawings by Mary Hilger along the journey. For further information contact:

Michael Nolan at (574)335-9952 or Email: mnolan6@me.com

Mary Hilger at (260)438-8356 or Email: hilger8@aol.com

Sign-up by Jan. 25, 2020 at pilgrim-path.com

The Council on Aging of Elkhart County is in need of a volunteer receptionist. Our main focus is welcoming visitors by greeting them, in person or on the telephone; answering and referring inquiries to the proper department and maintaining a safe and clean reception area. 2-4 hours a day would be much appreciated. Perfect for a retired person or simply someone who wants to get out for a while. Be a part of an Agency who gives back to our senior population. Please contact Joanne Eichhorn, Resource Coordinator if interested. 574-340-1502 x240, Resources@elkhartcoa.org.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 29th, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:00a.m. Rae Ann Lane by Robert & Stevie Giel
10:30a.m. Jack Letherman by his Family
6:00p.m. The Parish

Monday, December 30th, Christmas Weekday

7:00a.m. Terry Stewart by Mary Stewart

Tuesday, December 31st, Vigil, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

5:30pm Frank Lucchese, Sr. by Family

Wednesday, January 1st, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

9:00a.m. George & Dorothy Neilson

Thursday, January 2nd, Memorial of Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church

7:00a.m. John Housand by Bob & Stevie Giel

Friday, January 3rd, The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:15a.m. Jane Sieracke by Family

Saturday, January 4th, Memorial of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00a.m. Heather Drinkwine by Family

Saturday, January 4th, Vigil Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

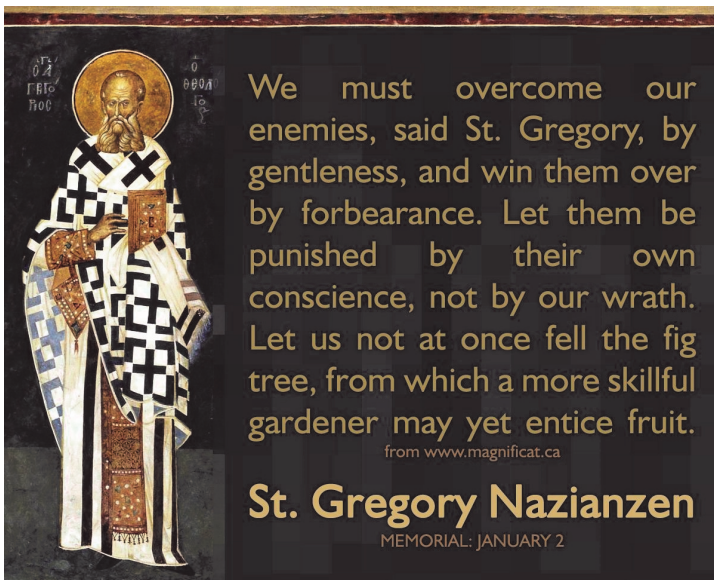
4:30p.m. Guerino DeMarco by Family

Sunday, January 5th, Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

8:00a.m. Daniel Mulheran
10:30a.m. David & Jessica Thomas by Jeff & Amy Kloska
6:00p.m. The Parish

Readings for the Week of December 29th, 2019

Sunday	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday	1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2:36-40
Tuesday	1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13; Jn 1:1-18
Wednesday	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Thursday	1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Jn 1:19-28
Friday	1 Jn 2:29—3:6; Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6; Jn 1:29-34
Saturday	1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9; Jn 1:35-42
Sunday	Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



Tuesday, December 31st

5:30p.m. Vigil for Holy Day Mass

Wednesday, January 1st

9:00a.m. Holy Day Mass

Saturday, January 4th

9:00a.m. Reconciliation—Church



Let us imitate the Holy Family in our Christian families, and our family will be a cell and a prefiguration of the heavenly family. Say a prayer dedicating your family to the Holy Family. Also pray for all families and for our country to uphold the sanctity of the marriage bond which is under attack.

Sponsor of the Week

Standard Label



THREE DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT ST. THOMAS WHEN YOU GO SHOPPING

BRING US YOUR CAPS!!! FUNDRAISER

Just send in your milk caps from Prairie Farms to school or drop them in the container in the Gathering Space. For more information or

questions, contact: Immacolata Varacalli,
Director of Lunch Program
ivaracalli@stselkhart.com



COLLECT BOX TOPS!!

St. Thomas the Apostle is a Box Tops for Education School! Please clip the Box Tops on participating products and save them for our school. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents. It might not seem like a lot, but with everyone helping us clip, it adds up quickly! Drop your collected Box Tops in the special collection bin in the gathering space or drop them off in the school office.



When shopping on Amazon, be sure to shop at smile.amazon.com and select St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart. When you do, a portion of the proceeds from your purchases is returned to St. Thomas as a rebate. This is an easy way to help the school and church.

Message from St. Joseph County Right to Life



Our annual Rally and March for Life and Signature Ad are quickly approaching. Please join us in standing for life through these two opportunities this coming month. Last year's Rally and March came at a time when an abortion business, Whole Woman's Health Alliance, was attempting to open a clinic in South Bend. This year that clinic did open, and two weekends a month abortions are occurring in our own community. Our Rally and March falls on the same date as the National March in Washington D.C., so our public witness in South Bend will happen simultaneously with the witness of others throughout the nation. To sign up for the signature ad, visit: <https://www.prolifemichiana.org/ad>

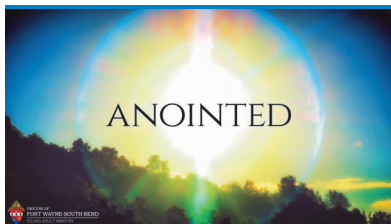


**The Adoration Chapel
will close for
Christmas until
Monday
January 6 at 3:00 PM**



Ways to stay healthy during the holidays
Helpful weight control strategies. Eat a small, healthy meal before parties and don't stand next to the buffet table. Carry an apple or bag of baby carrots with you, particularly when shopping, so you always have a healthy snack available. Tuck some hand wipes or a hand sanitizer in with you snacks so it is easy to have clean hands no matter where you eat. Drink plenty of water. Don't give exercise a holiday. If there is no time to follow your usual routine, be creative! Source: www.americancleaninginstitute.org

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Volunteers – The heart of a non-profit




Young Adult Retreat 2020 Theme: Anointed
 Saturday, January 18, 9:00am - Sunday, January 19, 1:00pm
 at Lindenwood Retreat & Conference Center
 Cost: flexible

We are anointed with Sacred Chrism oil at Baptism and Confirmation as the sacramental sign of receiving the Holy Spirit. What does this anointing mean for your identity and purpose in life? How can you live more fully through the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit?


Join fellow young adults in our 20s & 30s for a chance to explore ways of increasing the role of the Holy Spirit in your life! Enjoy relevant talks, inspiring music, Mass, Adoration, Confession, and social time. Includes overnight lodging, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast and lunch on Sunday.

Elizabeth Ann Seton



If I had to advise parents, I should tell them to take great care about the people with whom their children associate... Much harm may result from bad company, and we are inclined by nature to follow what is worse than what is better.

AZ QUOTES



Part Time School Custodian Needed
 St. Thomas the Apostle School
 Hours: 4-8pm
 Background check required
 Contact the school office for more information

The church office will be closed:
 December 31st and January 1st.

Are you looking for a way to use your Time and Talent?

Elkhart General is looking for volunteers in almost 30 areas of the hospital. In as little as 4 hrs/week you can "have an amazing impact on someone's life and on your community when you volunteer".


Check out the following web site or call 574-523-2761 for more information.
<https://www.beaconhealthsystem.org/elkhart-general-volunteer-service>



Catholic Solitaires- Next Meeting
 Wednesday, January 8th, 12:30pm
 Perkins
 RSVP Sharon J. 206-9844

The purpose of Catholic Solitaires is to bring singles together in a Christian social environment and to grown in friendship.





Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families.

— Excerpted from With Christ Through the Year, Rev. Bernard Strasser, O.S.B.



Weekend Assignments

**Saturday,
January 4th
&
Sunday,
December 5th**

Mass Times	4:30p.m.	8:00a.m.	10:30a.m.	6:00 p.m.
Extraordinary Ministers Of Holy Communion	Deb Duchac* Ann Britzke Cassie Eby Deborah Franger J. Futterknecht Kathleen Dotlich Volunteer	Hannelore Dykes* Larry Scalise Steve Wenzel Kay Gonsoski Claire Hartman Margie Petersen Volunteer	Leslie Smith* Jim Smith Matt Snyder Rebecca Snyder Frank Vargo Barbara Vargo Choir Member	Volunteers
Lectors	Mike Ruskowski Volunteer	Sarah Belisle John Hock	Anne Wininger	Jeff Kaczanowski
Sacristan	Jan Cawley	Larry Scalise	Rebecca Snyder	Carolyn Farrow
Servers	Ethan Bryant Enrique Betancourt Fatima Betancourt Lily Day Leo Duggan	Nathan Gonzales Sergio Gonzales Izabel Melvin Mason Szymanowski Jaxon Szymanowski	Dylan Lochmandy Wyatt Lochmandy Molly Nickell Kathryn Rivas Kaden Schuetz	Lexie Hicks Victoria Garcia Cynthia Aguilar Volunteers
SCRIP Sales	Angela Duchac de Gonzalez	Laura Reverman	Heather Schuetz	Lynn Syer



December 29th: Jessica Boyle, Sherriann Gard, Abraham Kloska
December 30th: Sharon Brockoff-Dodson, Breanna Gonzalez, Bethany Gropp, John Kibler, Braeden Messenger
December 31st: Lucas Bueter, Cody Lochmandy, Ruth Middleton, Angelica Preciado
January 1st: Elizabeth Borger, Janet Casillas, Edgar Moreno, Robert Slabaugh
January 2nd: Colin Balsbaugh, Laurie Schieber, Sophia Szuba
January 3rd: Jeffrey Fullhart, Jessica Gorden, Sarah Lambdin, Joshua Miller, Loretta Souder
January 4th: Larry Abel, Ryan Coates, Abran Portillo, James Rinehart, Jack Shupert, Dan Wierzbicki, Gabrille Yoder

Remember in your prayers those parishioners or their family or friends who are sick, in the hospital, nursing home, homebound or in need of prayers especially:

Norma Royer
Sandy Richardson
Linda Hunt
Shelley Eppers
Cathy Lytell
Philip Wiskotoni
Lois Dusthiner
Jim Weitz
Charlie Sonneborn
Gezo Shapo
Monica Worthington
Rosa Santos
Katherine Pluas
Elizabeth Rose
Jerry Lockwood
Peg Covert
Lucille Izak
Rick Newman
Mary Pulley
Rocky Freehart
Matt Snyder
Ann Brigant
Max Rockrohr
Teresa Schultz
Pauline Williams
Nancy Peterman
Nancy Kay

Stephen & Steve
Spretnjak
Amanda Jasín-Foens
Muff Klose
Noreen Jankowski
Murray & Martha
McKay
Bev Johnson
Phyllis Flamion
Andy Pringle
Karen Feltz
John Schultz
Mark Campbell
Jay Arthur
Jackie Schafer
Sharon Long
Matthew Marks
Sharon Edsall
Dorothy Feichtner
John Sadoway, Sr.
Camdon Pomson
Mary Ellen Shamory
Dana VanPaemel
Elizabeth Lopez
John DiPiro
Carla Mikel
Sharon Van Paemel

Please call the
rectory to update:
262-1505

If you are home-
bound temporarily or
long term, you may
call the rectory to
arrange for Holy
Communion to be
brought to you.



December 29 Feast of the Holy Family
Food Pantry Collection 2nd and 4th Sunday of
each month- God Will Deliver Them

Today is the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. The story of the flight to Egypt tells us that as a family, they were not exempted from threats, trials and tribulations. However, it was their determination to do God's will that ultimately delivered them. Countless families today are threatened and destroyed not just by divorce or domestic violence, but by neglect, poverty and abandonment. Many of our pantry clients are single parents who struggle to solely provide for the needs of their children. Whatever temporary relief we are able to offer them comes as a welcome blessing from heaven. Is there a family you know who can benefit from any of our services? Please direct them to the SVDP Society Food Pantry located at the Pastoral Center, the yellow building behind St. Vincent de Paul Church at 1108 South Main Street. By your generosity and concern, families in distress can rest assured that God will always deliver them.