



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 17, 2019

St. Thomas
POTLUCK
Valentine's Day
Celebration!
 SATURDAY . FEBRUARY 9 . 6:00PM
 O'NEILL CENTER

*Be my protector,
 O God, a mighty
 stronghold to save me.
 For you are my rock,
 my stronghold! Lead
 me, guide me, for the
 sake of your name.*



Psalm 31 (30): 3-4



2 WEEKS PLANNING

MONDAY . February 18
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
• Happy Presidents' Day
BIBLE STUDY
• McMillan Room . 6:30pm

TUESDAY . February 19
RCIA
• McMillan Room . 6pm

THURSDAY . February 21
LITURGY COMMISSION
• McMillan Room . 7pm

SUNDAY . February 24
FAMILY FAITH FORMATION
• O'Neill Center . 9am
CONFIRMATION PREP
• O'Neill Center . 6pm

MONDAY . February 25
BIBLE STUDY
• McMillan Room . 6:30pm

TUESDAY . February 26
RCIA
• McMillan Room . 6pm

FRIDAY . MARCH 1
• ANOINTING OF THE SICK
• Chapel. 8:30am



F A C C
**FEBRUARY
COLLECTION
GOAL:**
250 BOXES OF
SPAGHETTI NOODLES
(Of course, any other food
item that is donated will be
gratefully accepted.)



FROM THE PEN OF FATHER KEN. *...The Kingdom of God*

"Blest are you poor. ... but woe to you rich."

These powerful words, recorded for us by Luke, offer many avenues for thought. Today's liturgy places them in the context of The first reading and the Gospel and thus connects them with the search for happiness. To be sure Jesus is not praising poverty in and of itself, but the ability to seek goodness, truth and beauty.

I often reminisce about times in the Appalachian regions of Kentucky, Ohio and in Costa Rica, and seeing barefaced poverty. And yet, these same very poor people had a spirit of generosity and hospitality. Even in the worse of situations there were people who would share their food and protect the weak and vulnerable. Make no mistake about it, poverty can breed ugliness and despair, but there was a sense of hope and goodness in so many.

Sometimes our culture of plenty which hypes "having," over giving, place an idea in our hearts and minds, that we deserve everything that we have. We lose sight of the transcendent. But if we allow the ways and words of Jesus to have their full force and vitality, we will realize that there is a higher wisdom that confounds all our categories.

Our liturgies, rituals and stories of faith, are not meant to simply pacify us, but to make present to ourselves the mighty work of God, who is the "mystery tremendous and fascinating." If there is no supernatural order, the Sermon on the Mount makes no sense. It is not our task as Christians to conform the Christ of God to our needs and expectations. Our task is to conform our lives to him.

Father Ken

SPEEDY DELIVERY

Have a message, donation
or question for Father or staff
and the office is closed?

*Drop it in the brown box
just outside the church
office door labelled
'For Parish Priest
and Parish Staff'*

FORMED
THE BEST CATHOLIC CONTENT. ALL IN ONE PLACE.
To register, go to: stthomasfreeport.formed.org

WINTER IS COLD.

Our Chapel is warm with the love of Jesus Himself waiting in the monstrance on the altar. Choose an Adoration Hour or come as a Visitor. You can leave the cold world for a bit. You Will be glad you did. Our Eucharistic Adoration begins at 9am daily. Last hour is 8pm to 9pm. At other times, we pray to Jesus who is in the Chapel tabernacle. For information about choosing your hour of Adoration or becoming a substitute call Connie, 815-232-3209, or Cammie, 815-235-7604, for information and the security code. Adorers are needed for the following hours:

- Wednesday at 6pm
- Saturday at 12pm and 3pm



Servants of Mary

February's
Prayer
Intention:
Say one Hail
Mary a day for
our doctors,
nurses and
health care
providers.



THE OBSERVER

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VOCATIONS CORNER

by Father Robert Gonella
Assistant Vocation Director

As a priest, people often want to know about the point in my life when I heard "the call". The truth is that I heard the Lord calling at different times throughout my life, but I did not decide to heed His call until my last year in college. It was, of course, exciting to start following God's path for me in my life, but it was also scary at times. One of the things I was most scared of was not knowing how my friends would react when I told them what I was going to do. I was scared that my friends might make fun of me or maybe even not want to be friends with me anymore. As it turned out, most of my friends were very supportive & happy for me. However, there were a few times when people did not understand & even said some hurtful things. Even though it was painful at the time, I can look back on it now & see that even those painful moments were part of God's plan for me. In our Gospel this weekend, Jesus reminds us that we will indeed have times when we have to suffer because we are His disciples. However, we should not shy away from those moments. Rather, Jesus tells us that we should see ourselves as blessed in those times when we can carry that Cross with Him. We should always remember that we are His disciples & the disciple is never greater than the Master. People mocked Jesus, & we may have to suffer mockery at times as well. However, we can always be comforted by the fact that Jesus never abandons us in our suffering. If you are afraid of following God's will for you because of what others might think, be comforted by this Gospel passage. Do not shy away from suffering for the Name of Jesus, but rather count yourself as blessed when you are treated poorly because you are His disciple. Be faithful to Jesus Christ and He will never let you go.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Knights of Columbus provide Catholic men over the age of 18 and their families an opportunity to further lead with Faith; Serve Others; better protect your family; and Defend your Values.



The Knights of Columbus is a trusted name, tried by time, present where men are, providing inspiring resources and support for strengthening your faith and living a life of virtue.

The local Freeport Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Major Degree at St. Thomas on March 30th in the afternoon. If you have any questions about the organization or the degree, contact Tom Willison at 815-275-7111/ tomwillison3@gmail.com, or, have general questions about the organization, KofC.org/JoinUs.

MADONNA RENEWAL CENTER SPAGHETTI DINNER

A spaghetti dinner will be held Tuesday, March 5th in the O'Neill Center, serving from 4-8pm. Advance tickets are \$7.00 and tickets at the door are \$8.00. Tickets may be purchased from St. Mary's/St. Joseph's Church office, Gemorifics, Christensen's Home Town Realtors and Luecke's Jewelry Store. Pre-arranged carry-outs can be made by calling Colleen at 815-275-6378. All proceeds will be used for the renovation of the Madonna Renewal Center.

YOU'RE INVITED!

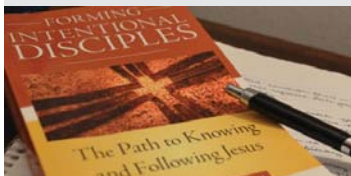
The Rockford Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will honor Bishop Malloy and the Deanery Spiritual Advisers on Wednesday, March 13. RDCCW will honor Bishop Malloy and the Deanery Spiritual Advisers with a luncheon at the Brandywine Banquet and Event Center, 441 IL Rt. 2, Dixon, IL. Registration forms are available at your parish office or from your parish women's president. Reservations are \$30 per person, deadline is Friday, March 1. For more information please call Sharon 815-389-4012 or Josie, 815-440-5374. Checks payable to RDCCW.



Now Every First Friday!

The Anointing of the Sick is administered to bring spiritual and physical strength during an illness. The sacrament is a rite that is performed to convey God's grace to the recipient, through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is not Extreme Unction or Last Rites. Receiving the sacrament in the presence of family and friends adds to the sacredness and impact of spiritual healing for the one receiving the sacrament. Anointing of the Sick will be routinely celebrated, on the First Friday of every month, after the 8:00am Mass in the Chapel. Our next Anointing will be held March 1.

NEW SMALL GROUP STARTING!



Forming Intentional Disciples

The survey results are in and we are ready to start moving forward with the items you have requested. First on the list is a small group that Father Ken will lead, 'Forming Intentional Disciples'. This group will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7pm throughout Lent, March 12-April 16. If there is enough interest, Father will also hold a small group on Tuesday afternoons.

If you are interested in joining either of these groups, you will need the book for the discussions. The parish can order the books at a discount. Please place your order by calling or emailing the office at 815-232-3225 or sta@stthomasfreeport.org or stop in during office hours. The book order will be placed on February 15.

LENT 2019

March 6-
April 18

While it is still a month away, now is a great time to start thinking about this question:

What are you going to do this Lent to deepen your relationship with Christ?

To help you with your Lenten journey, we invite you to join us for any of the following events at St. Thomas to help guide you on your journey:

LENTEN HOLY HOUR IN CHAPEL

8-9pm . Mondays
March 11, 18, 25
April 1, 8, 15

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES

7-8pm . Tuesdays
March 12, 19, 26
April 2, 9, 16
(If enough interest, a Tuesday afternoon session will be available. See story at left.)

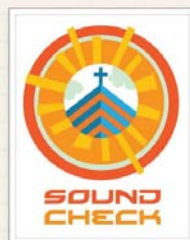
TAIZE

7-8pm . Wednesdays
March 13, 20, 27
April 3, 10, 17

Watch here for more details and offerings as Lent draws closer!

Student Musicians Invited!

The Stage is Set for Grades 3 and Older



'Sound Check' on Sundays!

The stage is set in the St. Thomas Church Music Ministry Room for student musicians and singers to come at 9:30am for music and more. Learn how to use the mics, soundboard, keyboard, drums and your voice to praise our Lord. We'll go through the songs for Mass that day and have lots of fun learning about our musical talents.

The 'Student Only' sessions will be held every Sunday and run from 9:30-10am. Our St. Thomas musicians will join us at 10 and rehearse for the 10:30am Mass. Then we'll all go to Mass and sing our praises to God and share our gifts with the St. Thomas parishioners and guests. Stay for what you can, no requirements or registration needed—just a love for sharing your gifts from the Lord!

If you have any questions about this exciting new program, please contact St. Thomas Music Coordinator, Laura Diemer at laura.diemer@aquinschools.org or call/text 815-541-2596.

To sing is to pray twice.

—St. Augustine



St. Thomas Church

Facebook

Our Music Ministry Room is located on the north end of the St. Thomas Education Wing. Just enter through the door and come into the first room on your left. **Our door is always open!**

1400 Kiwanis Drive, Freeport, IL | laura.diemer@aquinschools.org
815-541-2596 | stthomasfreeport.org/

Belong
1 JOHN 3:1

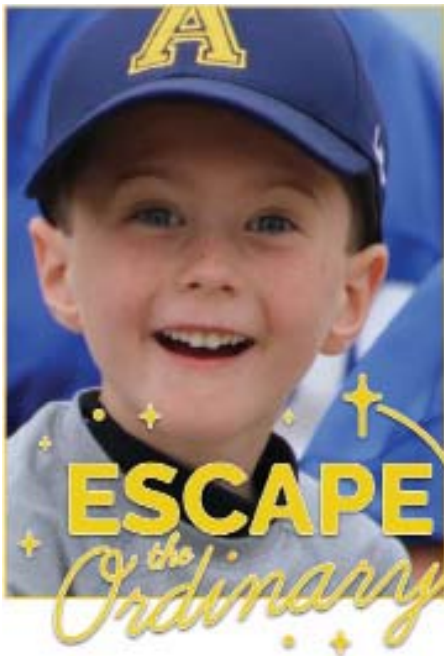
Registration Now Open For Steubenville St. Paul 2019
July 26-28, 2019

Join us and thousands of other teens for a weekend of fun, faith, and fellowship!
Christ is calling you: Answer!

To Register:
Pick Up a "How To" Guide at the Office or go online:
stthomasfreeport.org/steubenville-conference

Open to grades 9-12

Questions? Contact Gabby Williams:
Cell: (815) 277-9722 | Email: gwilliams@stthomasfreeport.org



Escape the Ordinary and learn, serve, lead and succeed ... with us!

At Aquin Schools, we strive to 'escape the ordinary' every day ... in our teachings, in our actions, in our choices, in our lives. Join our team and let us make a difference in your lives today.

2019-20
Registration is Open!
Aquin Schools
Preschool-Grade 12

www.aquinschools.org
serving Freeport since 1923



Students of the Month



Each month from October through April, Aquin recognizes three students who display the month's quality of the shield. Students are nominated by staff and faculty at both campuses and then selected by Administration.

Faith was January's shield and Aquin Schools are proud to announce their 'Students of the Month' for January:

Elementary:
Antonio Vera, Jr



Junior High:
Mason McIntyre



Senior High:
Alyssa Hunziker



FEBRUARY FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 17:

CONFIRMATION PREP
YOUR CALL

6-8PM

(NO FAITH FORMATION CLASSES)

FEBRUARY 24:

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

9AM

CONFIRMATION PREP
FINAL CLASS

6-8PM



BAPTISMS

Our next Baptism Class will be held on Sunday, April 7, 2019 from 1-3pm. 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.

Baptisms are held monthly. Parents wishing to have their child(ren) baptized should call the church office. Our next celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism will be Sunday, March 10. Deacon Kim Hemesath will celebrate this Sacrament.

DO YOU HAVE EYEGASSES THAT ARE NO LONGER OF USE TO YOU? They can become a blessing and make a huge difference in the life of people who will never be able to afford them. Lions International has a world-wide program that will match your glasses with someone who needs them. The Freeport Lions club has placed a collection box on the table in the lobby near the church office. Just drop your used glasses through the slot in the top of the box or in the hanging basket on the wall above the box. Your generosity will help others see better. God bless you!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019 IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT'S DAY.

ALTAR SERVER REFRESHERS

Starting February 17, St. Thomas will hold monthly training sessions for all altar servers. These sessions will be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month and begin at noon with a pizza lunch.

Father Ken and some of our retired 'all-star' servers will lead these sessions to increase your knowledge of the Mass and the important role you serve every time you're on the altar.

See you in the O'Neill Center on Sunday, February 17th at noon!

MASS TIMES & INFORMATION

FEBRUARY 18-24

DAILY ROSARY

Before 8 am Masses

DAILY CHAPEL SERVICES

MON 8 am
(Word and Communion)
TUE 8 am
(Mass for Jack Payne)
WED 8 am
(Mass for Margaret (Peg) Fogel)
THU 8 am
(Mass for Terry Johnson)
FRI 8 am
(Mass In Celebration of the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Wayne & Karen Greene)
SAT 8 am
(Mass for Mae Smith)

WEEKEND MASSES

SAT 4:30 pm
(Mass for Lorayne Edwards)
SUN 8 am
(Mass for Robert Corrigan, Sr.)
SUN 10:30 am
(Mass for People of the Parish)
SUN 1 pm
(Spanish Mass at St. Mary Parish)

OFFICE HOURS

MON-FRI 8 am-4 pm
SUN 9 am-noon

PARISH REGISTRATION

Registration forms are available at www.stthomasfreeport.org, or in the office.

BULLETIN ARTICLES

Submission deadline is noon on Tuesday prior to publication. Date may vary due to holidays. Submitted content is subject to approval and editing as needed.



PASTOR

Very Reverend Kenneth J. Anderson, V.F.
815-232-3225

DEACONS

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

OFFICE MANAGEMENT

BUSINESS MANAGER/WEBSITE COORDINATOR
Karen Sopcic 815-232-3225
SECRETARY
Sandy Roser 815-232-3225
PARISH HALL COORDINATOR
Jan Bald 815-232-3225

PARISH COMMISSIONS

PASTORAL COUNCIL
Dick Drogosz 815-233-0798
Cathy Finch 815-233-2255
Barb Hemesath 815-541-6761
Deacon Kim Hemesath 815-541-6760
Dan Moeller 815-235-9428
Deacon Steve Pospischil 815-233-2422
STEWARDSHIP & EVANGELIZATION COMMITTEE
Tom Willison 815-232-5539
FINANCE COUNCIL
Jim Brannick 815-232-6675
SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION
OPEN
FAITH FORMATION COMMISSION
OPEN
PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES
Jan Moss 815-232-2259

FAITH FORMATION

AQUIN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Aquin Principal: Rosemarie Brubaker 815-235-3154
Elementary Principal: Jeremy Keesee 815-232-6416
School Board Rep: Greg Guiliams 815-291-5839
FAITH FORMATION COORDINATORS
Marie Dinneen 815-232-4873
Julie Dorsey 815-235-5395
YOUTH MINISTRY
Gabby Williams 815-209-8450

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION
Deacon Steve Pospischil 815-233-2422
LECTORS
Deacon Steve Pospischil 815-233-2422
USHERS
4:30 pm Carolyn Weaver 815-563-4469
8:00 am Tom Kornfeind 815-233-4519
10:30 am Roland Caruso 815-291-4253
MASS SERVERS
Diane Fiedler 815-369-4158
MUSIC COORDINATOR
Laura Diemer 815-541-2596

GROUPS

ST. THOMAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
Meetings 2nd Wednesday of each month
Jeremy Grayewski 815-563-4222
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
Connie Eilers 815-232-3209
SERVANTS OF MARY
Barb Hemesath 815-541-6761
PARISH PRAYER TREE
Beth Bowen 815-233-0281
Barb Hemesath 815-541-6761

OUR PARISH TITHE

Our February tithe will be used to purchase the ingredients to be used in the foodpacking event April 12-13 at HCC called Hearts & Hands for Hunger OneMeal. Kids Around the World provides the materials, set-up & transports the food to trusted partners who assure that it reaches hungry children in the U.S. & 18 other countries. They believe children are "a legacy worthy of investment". There are approximately 2.2 billion children worldwide. Half of the world's population of children is in poverty. This lack of safety burdens a child with fear and physical and emotional trauma, stunting a child's ability to learn and grow, leaving them hopeless and without vision. Investing in children is investing in the future political, educational, and spiritual leaders, teachers, parents and caretakers of the planet God has entrusted us with. Our tithe and/or time allows us to be part of this investment.

February 9/10

COLLECTIONS

Sunday Envelopes	\$ 5,604.00
Loose Offering	<u>828.75</u>
Total	\$6,432.75
Children's Collection	\$ 29.75
Online e-Giving	\$ 878.00

Holy Family Lights

are burning in loving memory of
Brian Keith.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Second Sunday of the month at noon or during a weekend Mass, preparation classes required

RECONCILIATION

SAT 8:30-9am & 3:30-4:15pm or by appointment

CONFIRMATION

Held every 2 years for 8th & 9th grade students.

MARRIAGE

Please contact church office to make an appointment with Father

ANOIDING OF THE SICK

Please contact church office to arrange for anointing for someone who is seriously ill or preparing for surgery. If ill, home bound or hospitalized, we can visit upon request.

Anointing of the Sick is also available on the first Friday of the Month following the 8am Mass in the chapel.



(available in Google Play & The App Store)

815-232-3225

sta@stthomasfreeport.org

Connect with Us!

WWW.STTHOMASFREEPORT.ORG



All Are Welcome

All of our events, meetings and celebrations are open to everyone so please mark them on your calendar and join us!