

CHRISTMAS *Blessings*

December 21, 2025



Christmas is filled with many valuable lessons for us. For those who find the reason uninspired, “not what it used to be,” Christmas teaches us to accept the messiness of life as a source of joy.

The circumstances surrounding the birth of the Son of God were certainly messy. The story of the events that make up Christmas have been romanticized, but the facts of life were not so romantic. Mary traveled on a donkey while she was pregnant. Joseph wanted to break off the engagement. They were turned away again and again in their search for lodging. The baby was born in a cow's stall. Strangers kept coming in to gawk and wonder. An All-around messy situation—but still, the angels sang “Gloria!”

Our lives are messy too. We plan a great Christmas party for family and what happens? We forget to serve the bread Grandma made. Uncle Dave has a bit too much to drink. Cousin Sue has the flu and we're all afraid of catching it. The dog just licked the ham. We can still sing “Gloria.”

Life is not always perfect, neat and beautiful. Joy is found in embracing life as it is—all the upsets, drudgery and pettiness included. Having someone to hug us on a cold winter's night is better than a garage full of model cars. True friends are worth more than all the money in the world.

Good health is worth more than an impressive investment portfolio. Appreciative children can guarantee a more enjoyable old age than all the insurance policies in the world.

The glorious feast of Christmas affords me the opportunity to extend to you my warmest wishes. Welcome to all of our visitors. May the infant Savior shower His choicest blessings upon you and your families. May you always find reason to sing “Gloria” during the Christmas season and throughout the New Year 2023!

Merry Christmas!
Fr. Larry



The Parish Office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday, December 24th and will re-open on Monday, December 29th at 9 am.

St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church

31530 Beechwood Garden City MI 48135
(734) 427-1533 Thomastheapostle.org

SCAN
TO DONATE





This N That by Deacon Skip

I'm behind the 8 ball in saying this, but thank you to all those who plucked feathers off the Thanksgiving turkeys. Thank you to everyone who pulled a tag off the Giving Tree. A special thank you to all those who so generously contributed to the food bank these last couple of weeks. Your actions have made a difference in the lives of a lot of people.

The Thanksgiving drive and the Giving tree are over until next year. The need in the food pantry will continue on. The food pantry needs our ongoing support.

A couple of people have asked if I have been keeping up with my walking. I have definitely been doing my walks, but have had to scale down. The weather has been harsh, and a surprising number of people do not shovel their walks. It has been hard to go walking in some neighborhoods because of the icy sidewalks. Plus, the days keep growing shorter. I don't mind walking in the dark in the morning, but I am not a fan of walking after sunset.

Don't forget the food pantry; don't forget SVDP.

**Ministries Center/SVdp
(734) 425-9771**



The pantry needs help with our ongoing service to the community. We are most in need of cans of fruit, grape or strawberry jelly, cans mixed vegetables, carrots, soup, beef stew, chili, pancake mix, syrup, dish soap, toilet paper, and paper towels.

If you would like to receive items from the pantry, please call (734) 425-9771.

Holiday Masses

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 PM and 10:00 PM

Christmas Prelude of Music at 9:30 PM

Christmas Day Mass

9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Masses

Saturday, December 27 at 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 28 at 9:00 AM and 11 AM

Mary, Mother of God Masses

December 31 at 4:00 PM

January 1 at 10:00 AM

Epiphany Masses

January 3 at 4:00 PM

January 4 at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 21, 2025

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Rm 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Monday, December 22, 2025

1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14;
Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29; Lk 1:67-79

Thursday, December 25, 2025

The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil Mass: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29;
Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or Mt 1:18-25

Mass during the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14

Mass at Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12;
Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

Mass during the Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday, December 26, 2025

Feast of Saint Stephen, First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Mt 10:17-22

Saturday, December 27, 2025

Feast of Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

1 Jn 1:14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a and 2-8

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23



Please bring your own jingles bells to mass during the Christmas season to use during the Christmas Gloria.

Bulletin Editor

Sandy.Mulcahy@thomastheapostle.org

Bulletin article deadline is Monday before the issue date by 8:00 a.m. During holidays, articles must be submitted two Mondays before issue. All articles and submissions are subject to approval and editing.

Nankin Family of Parishes



Mass Schedule

St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy (734) 425-4421
8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland

St. Mary, Wayne (734) 721-8745
34530 Michigan Avenue, Wayne

St. Richard (734) 729-2240
35851 Cherry Hill Road, Westland

St. Thomas the Apostle (734) 427-1533
31530 Beechwood Street, Garden City

Monday	9:00 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	12:00 pm	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland (followed by Eucharistic Adoration)
Tuesday	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	9:00 am	St. Richard, Westland
Wednesday	12:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
Thursday	9:00 am	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland
Friday	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	9:00 am	St. Mary, Wayne
Saturday	4:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	4:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne
	5:30 pm	St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
Sunday	8:30 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	9:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
		St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
	10:00 am	St. Richard, Westland
	11:00 am	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
		St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
	11:30 am	St. Mary, Wayne
	2:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne (SPANISH)

Confessions (also by appointment)

Tuesday		St. Richard, Westland (after 9 am Mass)
Saturday	3:00 pm	St. Thomas the Apostle, Garden City
	3:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne
	6:30 pm	St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy, Westland

Perpetual Help Devotion

Every Tuesday after 9:00 AM Mass

Eucharistic Adoration (one hour)

First Friday of Each Month after 9:00 AM Mass

The Decorating Committee would like to thank all the parishioners that helped decorate the church for Christmas. We truly appreciate your help and support.



**Couples who
PRAY together,
STAY together**

*God Chose You
For Me*

A new Experience unlocking the power of the sacrament of marriage.
Realize God's call to a relationship of unity and holiness,
and create a lasting personal prayer for your relationship!

Date: January 17, 2026
Time: 9 am - 4 pm
Where: St. William Parish
531 Common St.
Walled Lake, MI



Pre registration required
\$100 per couple
Register at wwmc.org or
Call Amy & Joe Kopacz
517-667-0433

"IT'S LIKE WATERING YOUR MARRIAGE GARDEN WITH MIRACLE GROW"
Karen & Dave

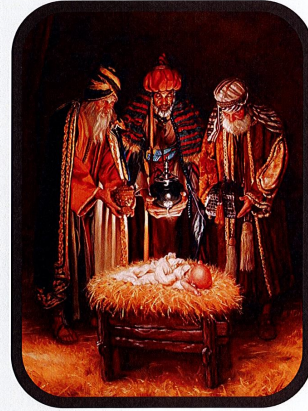


The Nankin Family of Parishes

Presents

A festival of Christmas Carols

An Epiphany concert featuring the stories and singing of some
of the greatest Christmas Carols.



The concert will be Sunday January 4th at 4:00 p.m. at
St. Mary Church, Wayne. Door will open at 3:30 p.m.

Reception to follow

Romans

The Gospel of Salvation



**The study of St. Paul's Letter to Romans:
The Gospel of Salvation**

First session:

In-person:

- St. Mary – Sunday, Jan 4 at 12:40 pm
- St. Richard – Tuesday, Jan 6 at 10 am
- St. Thomas the Apostle – Wednesday, Jan 7 at 10 am

Online sessions (Teams):

- Sunday, Jan 4 at 6 pm
- Thursday, Jan 8 at 6:30 pm

Workbook costs: \$30

St. Paul's Letter to Romans: The Gospel of Salvation has been a focal point for reflection, conversion, and controversy from the very beginning. It is an **eight-week Bible study** we are offering to help you understand the challenging passages on faith, the works of the law, and justification.

Participants will meet weekly to watch an engaging video presentation by Dr. Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, followed by group discussion and fellowship.

For more information, please contact **Paul Zdzicblowski** at 586-666-4029 or by email at pastoralassociate@stmarywayne.org.


We hope you can join us!

Please scan the QR code to register.

Here's the link to your Signup
<https://smsr.flocknote.com/signup/237318>



Worship Schedule		December 27 & 28, 2025	
MINISTERS	SAT 4:00 PM	SUN 9:00 AM	SUN 11:00 AM
CELEBRANT	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI	FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI
ALTAR SERVERS	ISABELLA POWELL	JULIE GALDES	MICHELLE KORIE JOSEPH KORIE
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	CORDELIA CHUKWUDI CANDY HENRY DENNIS LAZORKA FRANK TOFIL	TEDDY LUTHER GLORY MCGAHAN JOAN PALMER JESSICA PIETKA	DENISE BIELSKI EVIE BURGESS SALLIE QUINN MISSY TAYLOR
LECTORS	LINDA LUDTKE	TOM WILHELM	MIKE WELDON
SACRISTAN	BOB PROKOP	CECILIA NESBITT	SALLIE QUINN
MASS INTENTIONS	+ RICHARD HALL + GEORGE & MARILYN MEIER + DR. DOMINIC NOONAN + DANNY PEPERA	PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE	+ MADELINE DEMPSEY + JOANNE PALMIRA VITALE KATHAN



Sanctuary Candle
FOR THE WEEK OF
DEC 14-20, 2025
+ *Richard Strasser*

Offertory collection is reported quarterly.

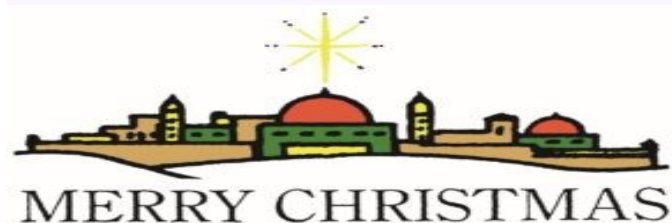
Thank you for your support and may God bless you!

Please remember St. Thomas the Apostle when writing your will.

ARE YOU REGISTERED AT ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE?

If you have been looking for a new parish we would appreciate you considering St. Thomas the Apostle as your parish. Stop by the Parish Center and fill out a registration form or download one from our website www.thomastheapostle.org.

You can stop by the office, or put it in the collection basket at Mass. Young adults over 18 should be registered on their own registration form.



WEEKDAY MASS INTENTIONS
December 22-26, 2025

Tuesday, December 23

9:00 am

PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 PM

- + MURIEL & DEBORAH FERRELL
- + THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE HEINDLMAYER FAMILY
- + KAPANKE & OMILIAN FAMILY
- + JULIE RAE QUESADA
- + ROSE KNAPP
- + RICHARD KNAPP
- + MARK KNAPP
- + RICHARD KNAPP, JR.
- "ANGEL" DR. DOMINIC NOONAN
- + TERESE KUSHNIR
- + CHARLENE GORNY
- + CHUCK & JENNY KUSHNIR
- + JOE & CONNIE GORNY
- + ALL THE POOR SOULS IN PURGATORY
- + FRANK & LENA SKURKIEWICZ

10:00 PM

- + ADOLPH & BERNICE KARWAN
- ALBERTO CORDOVA HERRERA
- + MARY, SHERILL & PAT ZARZYCKI
- + CHRISTINE DEWEY
- + BILL & CAROLYN MAIN

Thursday, December 25

9:00 AM

- + DOLORES DOWD
- ALBERTO CORDOVA HERRERA
- + MARILYN LELEK
- + JOANN SHANKIN
- + BARBARA STEMPNIAK
- + THOMAS STEMPNIAK
- + THOMAS JOSEPH STEMPNIAK

11:00 AM

- + ROBERT DEMPSEY

Friday, December 26

9:00 am

PARISHIONERS OF ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Please Pray For...

Alaska, Shirley
Batherson, Barbara
Baumgardner, Patty
Berger, Ron
Beuer, Donna
Block, Karen
Boyak, Carolyn
Bringold, Bonnie
Burgess, Evie
Burke, Larry
Burris, Nikita and Family
Calley, Julie
Canini, Ricky
Carpenter, Mike
Cepko Family
Chichila, Pam

Chop, Nancy Grabel
Cielma, Genevieve
Cislo, Dan
Cole, Jean
Cole, Regina
D'Angelo, Rebecca
Dacus, Shirley
Daugherty, Kenny
Decaminada, Mona
DeGrande, Colleen
Dempsey, Sgt Joseph
Dempsey, Michele
Dewey, Thomas
Dial, Philip
Durkin Jr., Gerald Lee
Duval, Chuck
Dzendzel, Mary Ann
Eichstedt, Laurie

Eves, Debbie
Feiler, Alex Horne
Fichtner, Leanne
Filak, Julianna
Fornasiero, Joseph
Gentilia, Judy
Gozowsky, David
Hagen, Jenifer
Harte, John
Hubbard, Carl
Kapanke, Dolores
Kathan, Joann
Kathan, Thomas
LeVair, Lorraine
LeVair, Sherry
Lobb, Cindy
Lobb, Jeri
Lowe, Jonathan

Malish, Rosemary
Murawski, Veronica
O'Connell, Evan
Oliverio, Jr., Robert
Pastula, Shirley
Prosser, Cindy
Romanek, Virginia (Pat)
Ruby, Nancy
Sanak, Francene
Sanregret, John
Smith, Mary
Smitt, Deb
Smith, Patricia
Soine, Dianna
Stites, Keith
Sutherland, Eleanor
Swiercz, Bobbie
Tennent, Joan

Tsaprazis, Pete
Turcotte, Joshua
Walker, Ian
Whitfield, James
Wielechowski, Kenneth
Wildauer, Mark
Zarzycki, Stanley

Prayer list requests can be made only with the knowledge and permission of the person being added. To add, keep a person on the prayer list, or to remove a name, please call the parish office.

Pray for the First Saturday Memorial Association from July 2025-June 30, 2026

Deceased Members of Ajlouny & Blaty Families
Living & Deceased Members of Barnes & Digregio Families
Deceased & live members of the Batherson Family
In Memory of Bruce Birmingham
Loving Memory of Aunt Loretta Brandt
Deceased and Live Members of Butka & Wojtkowiak families
In Loving Memory of Walter & Mary Burdis
Loving Memory of Sgt. Bryan K. Burgess
Loving Memory of Coach Dave Cain
Deceased Members of Cielma and Niwa Families
In Loving Memory of Tommy Cockrum
Deceased Members of the Darnell Family
Living & Deceased Members of Dooley & Firestone Families
Living & Deceased Members of Duncan & Williams Families
Living & Deceased Members of Gizowski & Sovel Families
Loving Memory of Gorny and Kushnir Families
In Memory of Donald Grant
Loving Memory of Jessie & Chester Gugala
In Loving Memory of Bob and Ann Hoelscher
In Loving Memory of Robert S. Hoffman
In Loving Memory of Eugene Josphe Hynek
My Wife Joanne Who I Love and Miss Very Much
Kapanke-Omilian Family
Deceased Members of the Kattula Family
Living & Deceased Members of Keiller & Marciniak Families

Living & Deceased Members of Kwilos & Stecker Families
Deceased Members of LaMar and Dryja Families
The Malish and Porembiak Families
In Loving Memory of Margaret Mirabitor
In Loving Memory of Reynold Mirabitor Sr.
In Loving Memory of Audrey Mocadlo
Loving Memory of Jerry Moynahan
Living & Deceased Members of Mroz & Rutkowski Families
Angel Dr. Dominic J. Noonan
In Loving Memory of Ben and Phyllis Ornatowski
Deceased members of Pattock & Stuecken families
Angel Danny P. Pepera
My loving wife of 66 years, Mary J. Pepera
For the Prouty Family
Living & Deceased Members of Rand & Vasquez Families
In loving memory of Frances J. Read
In Memory of Richard and Eleanore Reed
Memory of Kathy Rodgers
In Loving Memory of Edward and Helen Romanowski
In Loving Memory of Mark Roy
In Loving Memory of Thomas and Barbara Stempniak
Deceased Members of the Sturm & Preba Families
Deceased Members of the Szuba & Balawajder Families
Martin A. Tofil
In Loving Memory of Edwin L. Wendrick

Pray for those Serving in the Military

Ainsworth, Sgt. Raymond
Angelovic, Adrian
Angelovic, George
Arndinger, Stephanie
Baumgardner, AJ
Becker, Justin
Bregand, David
Brozek, Timothy
Burris, Peter
Campbell, Mary
Canfield, Chaz
Chokr, Jamel
Cinka, Jonathan
Coatsworth, Michael
Comment, Scott

DiCicco, Bill
Dwyer, Tyler
Ellsworth, Justin
Fisher, Bob
Gentilia, Anthony
Hunter, Cassidy
Julien, Nick
Kapelanski, Isaac
Kashou, Christopher
Laichalk, Robert
Logan, Jonathon
Logan, Sean Patrick
Logan, Jeff
Lowe, Jonathan
Masarak, Luke

McCarville, William E.
McGahan, Wade
McGaw, Douglas
Meadows, Erin
Moody, Samantha
Murray, Daniel
Nguyen, Staff Sgt. Truong
Ohannesian, Brandon
Pastula, Michael Thomas
Porcaro, Jeff
Preba, Danny
Rosa, Brian J.
Rosa, Douglas J.
Rousseau, Philip
Sheko, Destiny

Smith, David
Smith, Sgt. Leven
Smitt, David
Spiczka, Cathy
Spiczka, Greg
Sparrow, Justin
Spohr, Raymond
Squires, Zachary
Szerszen, Michael
Waldo, Michael
Waldon, Nathan
Webb, Brian
Wiertella, Jonathan
Witt, Christopher



Missy Taylor

Director of Faith Formation / Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

FAITH FORMATION



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours the very merriest Christmas season and God's richest blessings in the New Year!! I would also like to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** for the support and encouragement I have received this year while working in this very special ministry to help bring the children to Him. I am SO blessed and honored to be a part of such a rich community of faith. I pray for the Holy Spirit to help guide our way into 2026!!



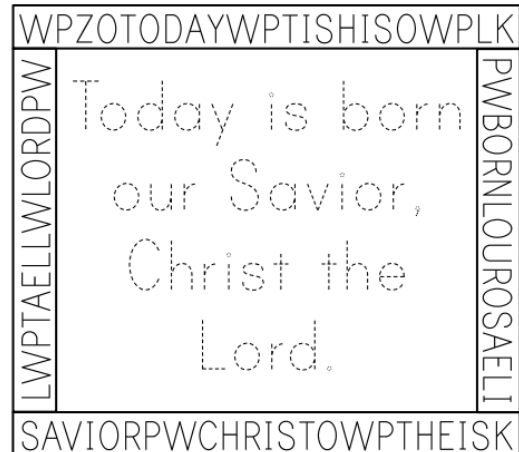
CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



Be sure to bring your children to the 11:00am Mass each Sunday so they may join us in the Children's Liturgy of the Word program. After the opening prayers, the children are led to the Father Prus Hall

where they will learn the Scripture message of the day in terms that they can understand, usually with the help of a wonderful activity. Children return to their families during the offertory. Suggested for children ages 3-8.

*"Let the children come to me" -
Matthew 19:14*



Please be sure to pick up a copy of our **Catholic Kids Bulletin** each week for your children or grandchildren. Each issue contains great lessons for the weeks' Scripture readings with some fun activities! They can be found in the Gathering Space! **The greatest gift we can share with our young people is the gift of FAITH!!**

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE (734)425-5550

mtaylor@thomastheapostle.org