



Prepare the way of the Lord

December 7, 2025



There are a few things in this season more stressful than putting up the family Christmas tree. Often Mom will announce, "Today we're putting up the tree, and we are going to do it as a family." While some in the family get excited, others try to head for the hills. This "enforced" family ritual is not always a Rockwell painting.

If the tree is to be a real one, there will be arguments about which tree is best. If the tree is artificial there will be fighting with the tree itself and fussing to get the tree assembled and looking just right. Then there are the issues of decorating the tree to everyone's personal satisfaction. Mom can often enforce the peace by force of will if she is present in the room, but once she is out of the room, civil war can erupt.

For the Pharisees and Sadducees, honor came by being born into an important family. John the Baptist tells them that their connection to Abraham is meaningless. Only conversion of heart brings real change. Family trees will fall to the ax if hearts are not re-formed.

Advent invites us to revisit the vision of Paradise, to remind ourselves of what can and should be. Putting up a Christmas tree can be a real lesson in how we must cooperate if there is to be something of beauty in our home. Reforming our lives is essential. Even God cannot enforce peace if we do not mold ourselves in accord with God's vision.

Remember that this Monday, December 8, is the feast of the Immaculate Conception, not a holyday of obligation this year. Mass will be celebrated at 12:00 noon at St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy.

Next weekend a special collection will be taken for the Retirement Fund for Religious. This national appeal will help religious congregations care for their elderly and infirm sisters, brothers and priests. Religious women and men have served the Church in the United States for more than 200 years. Let's be generous in our thanks to them now in their time of need.

Immaculate Conception

Mass will be at St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, at 12 pm on Monday, December 8th. No Mass at St. Thomas the Apostle.



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

This is a period of serious reflection for me. I'm not talking about Advent and Christmas. I am talking about buying Christmas presents for the grand kids. I always try to buy each of them something to wear and something to enjoy. I used to hustle over to the toy section at Target, but its gotten much harder than that. The two oldest grandsons are each 20. My granddaughter will graduate from Stevenson High in the spring. The next one in line is 14. The youngest is 8, and he's still a candidate for the toy department. I am determined to succeed.

During the week, someone asked me how I knew the war stories of my relatives if none of them talked about them. It's a fair question. I learned about my Dad from my mother. Apparently when things were getting serious between them he told her about his adventure in Europe so that she would know the possibility that he might never have kids. I learned about Uncle Jack from another uncle.

I learned about my Uncle Jan from Jan. I was over at his house when I was in high school helping him load a U-Haul. (He was a college professor and was moving to Pennsylvania.) At some point we got to talking about WWII. He mentioned that he enlisted with the British Army during the war. I asked him where he served. He answered Bataan with all the excitement of saying squirrels seem to like acorns. I instinctively asked if he was in the Death March. He answered yes with the same level of excitement but with a look on his face that said don't ask anything more. I left it at that.

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

**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, mixed vegetables, corn, carrots, potatoes, dry spaghetti, bags plain rice, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, toilet paper, and paper towels.

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

Scripture Readings for the Week of December 7, 2025

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Rm 15:4-9;
Mt 3:1-12

Monday, December 8, 2025

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

Gen 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4;
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Is 40:1-11; Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13;
Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Is 40:25-31; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10; Mt 11:28-30

Thursday, December 11, 2025

Is 41:13-20; Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab;
Mt 11:11-15

Friday, December 12, 2025

Zech 2:14-17 or Rev 11:19a; 12-1-6a, 10ab;
Judith 13:18bcde, 19; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday, December 13, 2025

Memorial of Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19;
Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10; Jas 5:7-10;
Mt 11:2-11

**CHRISTMAS
DECORATING
HELP NEEDED**



We will be decorating the church for Christmas on Sunday, December 14th, after the 11 am mass. If you could find time in your busy schedules to provide assistance, it would be greatly appreciated. (Children should be accompanied by an adult.) Thank you.



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
	11:30 am	St. Mary Cause of Our Joy, Westland
	2:00 pm	St. Mary, Wayne
		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



Holiday Masses and Penance Services

Immaculate Conception Masses

Monday, December 8

12:00 PM at St. Mary, Cause of Our Joy

Advent Penance Services

Monday, December 15

6:15 PM for **Faith Formation Students/Families**

Wednesday, December 17

12:45 PM at St. Thomas the Apostle

7:00 PM at St. Mary, Wayne

4th Sunday of Advent Masses

Saturday, December 20 at 4:00 PM

Sunday, December 21 at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

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 12:00 PM

Epiphany Masses

January 3 at 4:00 PM

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

Mid-life Singles (mid-30s to 50s): Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on Jan 30-Feb 1, 2026. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$240 for meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, e-mail reflect.michigan@gmail.com, or call (586) 770-1772 for details.



Just a friendly reminder...

In an effort to update the Bulletin Prayer Request List, please call the Parish Office at (734) 427-1533 to add or remove a name.

Worship Schedule		December 13 & 14 , 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	JULIA HEDRICK NOAH HEDRICK	STEPHANIE GALDES	CHUKWUMA NDUKWE STEPHLIN IMEBUOGU DAVIS IMEGUOGU
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	CORDELIA CHUKWUDI CANDY HENRY FRANK TOFIL VIKKI WOROSZ	TEDDY LUTHER GLORY MCGAHAN CECILIA NESBITT JOAN PALMER	DENISE BIELSKI EVIE BURGESS SALLIE QUINN MISSY TAYLOR
LECTORS	LINDA LUTKE	GEORGETTE KATTULA	STEVE KOVALESKI
SACRISTAN	BOB PROKOP	ROSE CONYER	SALLIE QUINN
MASS INTENTIONS	+ MURIEL & DEBORAH FERRELL + PATRICIA KOBAK + THADDEUS CIELMA PATRICK & WINIFRED TAUSNEY	+ GEORGE ELDRIDGE + MARGUERITE BOYCE ALBERTO CORDOVA HERRERA	+ BRIAN DEMPSEY FATHER LAWRENCE ZURAWSKI + THADDEUS CIELMA + BABY ACE ALEXANDER NEHMEH GAIL (DAUPHINAIS) COLVIN INTENTIONS OF THE CLOISTERED DOMINICAN NUNS AT THE MONESTERY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

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.

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.



Weekday Masses
December 8-12, 2025

Tuesday, December 9
9:00 am

+ ROY PALKONER

Wednesday, December 10
12:00 PM

+ ROSE PIEKNIK

Friday, December 12
9:00 am

ALBERTO CORDOVA HERRERA



Sanctuary Candle

FOR THE WEEK OF
DEC 7-13, 2025

+ *Richard Strasser*

Please Pray For...

Alaska, Shirley	Cielma, Genevieve	Eves, Debbie	Murawski, Veronica	Turcotte, Joshua
Batherson, Barbara	Cislo, Dan	Feiler, Alex Horne	O'Connell, Evan	Walker, Ian
Baumgardner, Patty	Cole, Jean	Fichtner, Leanne	Oliverio, Jr., Robert	Whitfield, James
Berger, Ron	Cole, Regina	Filak, Julianna	Paczas, Karen	Wielechowski, Kenneth
Beuer, Donna	Csiszar, David	Fornasiero, Joseph	Pastula, Shirley	Wildauer, Mark
Block, Karen	D'Angelo, Rebecca	Gentilia, Judy	Prosser, Cindy	Zarzycki, Stanley
Boyak, Carolyn	Dacus, Shirley	Gozowsky, David	Romanek, Virginia (Pat)	
Bringold, Bonnie	Daugherty, Kenny	Hagen, Jenifer	Ruby, Nancy	
Burgess, Evie	Decaminada, Mona	Harte, John	Sanak, Francene	
Burke, Larry	DeGrande, Colleen	Hubbard, Carl	Sanregret, John	
Burris, Nikita and Family	Dempsey, Sgt Joseph	Kapanke, Dolores	Smith, Mary	
Calley, Julie	Dempsey, Michele	Kathan, Thomas	Smitt, Deb	
Carpenter, Mike	Dewey, Thomas	LeVair, Lorraine	Smith, Patricia	
Cepko Family	Dial, Philip	LeVair, Sherry	Soine, Dianna	
Chichila, Pam	Durkin Jr., Gerald Lee	Lobb, Cindy	Stites, Keith	
Chop, Nancy Grabel	Duval, Chuck	Lobb, Jeri	Sutherland, Eleanor	
	Dzendzel, Mary Ann	Lowe, Jonathan	Tennent, Joan	
	Eichstedt, Laurie	Malish, Rosemary	Tsaprazis, Pete	

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 Kwilos & Stecker Families
Living & Deceased Members of Barnes & Digregio Families	Deceased Members of LaMar and Dryja Families
Deceased & live members of the Batherson Family	The Malish and Porembiak Families
In Memory of Bruce Birmingham	In Loving Memory of Margaret Mirabitor
Loving Memory of Aunt Loretta Brandt	In Loving Memory of Reynold Mirabitor Sr.
Deceased and Live Members of Butka & Wojtkowiak families	In Loving Memory of Audrey Mocadlo
In Loving Memory of Walter & Mary Burdis	Loving Memory of Jerry Moynahan
Loving Memory of Sgt. Bryan K. Burgess	Living & Deceased Members of Mroz & Rutkowski Families
Loving Memory of Coach Dave Cain	Angel Dr. Dominic J. Noonan
Deceased Members of Cielma and Niwa Families	In Loving Memory of Ben and Phyllis Ornatowski
In Loving Memory of Tommy Cockrum	Deceased members of Pattock & Stuecken families
Deceased Members of the Darnell Family	Angel Danny P. Pepera
Living & Deceased Members of Dooley & Firestone Families	My loving wife of 66 years, Mary J. Pepera
Living & Deceased Members of Duncan & Williams Families	For the Prouty Family
Living & Deceased Members of Gizowski & Sovel Families	Living & Deceased Members of Rand & Vasquez Families
Loving Memory of Gorny and Kushnir Families	In loving memory of Frances J. Read
In Memory of Donald Grant	In Memory of Richard and Eleanore Reed
Loving Memory of Jessie & Chester Gugala	Memory of Kathy Rodgers
In Loving Memory of Bob and Ann Hoelscher	In Loving Memory of Edward and Helen Romanowski
In Loving Memory of Robert S. Hoffman	In Loving Memory of Mark Roy
In Loving Memory of Eugene Josphe Hynek	In Loving Memory of Thomas and Barbara Stempniak
My Wife Joanne Who I Love and Miss Very Much	Deceased Members of the Sturm & Preba Families
Kapanke-Omilian Family	Deceased Members of the Szuba & Balawajder Families
Deceased Members of the Kattula Family	Martin A. Tofil
Living & Deceased Members of Keiller & Marciniac Families	In Loving Memory of Edwin L. Wendrick

Pray for those Serving in the Military

Ainsworth, Sgt. Raymond	DiCicco, Bill	McCarville, William E.	Smith, David
Angelovic, Adrian	Dwyer, Tyler	McGahan, Wade	Smith, Sgt. Leven
Angelovic, George	Ellsworth, Justin	McGaw, Douglas	Smitt, David
Ardingner, Stephanie	Fisher, Bob	Meadows, Erin	Spiczka, Cathy
Baumgardner, AJ	Gentilia, Anthony	Moody, Samantha	Spiczka, Greg
Becker, Justin	Hunter, Cassidy	Murray, Daniel	Sparrow, Justin
Bregand, David	Julien, Nick	Nguyen, Staff Sgt. Truong	Spohr, Raymond
Brozek, Timothy	Kapelanski, Isaac	Ohannesian, Brandon	Squires, Zachary
Burris, Peter	Kashou, Christopher	Pastula, Michael Thomas	Szerszen, Michael
Campbell, Mary	Laichalk, Robert	Porcaro, Jeff	Waldo, Michael
Canfield, Chaz	Logan, Jonathon	Preba, Danny	Waldon, Nathan
Chokr, Jamel	Logan, Sean Patrick	Rosa, Brian J.	Webb, Brian
Cinka, Jonathan	Logan, Jeff	Rosa, Douglas J.	Wiertella, Jonathan
Coatsworth, Michael	Lowe, Jonathan	Rousseau, Philip	Witt, Christopher
Comment, Scott	Masiarak, Luke	Sheko, Destiny	



Missy Taylor

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

FAITH FORMATION



Well it took TWO tries, but the weather finally cooperated and we were able to head out to clean yards of all those beautiful leaves that fell! What a difference two weeks makes; we went from 35 degrees with snow and rain drizzle to sunny and 50 degrees. Only in Michigan is the weather better LATER in the month of November! In total, we were able to put a smile on the face of SIX of our parishioners as we cleaned their yards! We then returned to the school building for prayer and pizza. The kids were tired and sore, but certainly energized by knowing that we did a GREAT service for those who needed our help! The waves and thank yous from those we helped warmed our hearts and made us happy to serve! Overall, we bagged a total of about 40 bags and we have LOTS of bags leftover for us to use next year thanks to the generosity of our parishioners! **GOD IS GOOD!**

ROSARY ALTAR SODALITY NEWS



HOLIDAY REMINDER!! The ladies of the Rosary Altar Sodality will gather, Tuesday, December 9th at 6pm for our Christmas dinner/party. **DOORS OPEN AT 5:45.** If you are not yet a member but would like to check us out and join us for the dinner, please call Missy to reserve a spot. Cost is \$25 a person. The more the merrier, we would love to see our numbers continue to grow!



Countdown
to Jesus'
Birthday...

3

Sundays!

Peace
2nd Sunday of Advent



A Gentle Reminder

PEACE IS A MINDSET.
PEACE IS A CHOICE.
IT SHOWS IN YOUR ACTIONS.
IT SHOWS IN YOUR VOICE.

PLEASE NEVER USE IT
JUST FOR A SEASON,
BUT ALL THE YEAR ROUND
AND FOR EVERY REASON.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE (734)425-5550

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